

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, January 21, 2014

REMEMBERING KING'S LEGACY

PHILLIP LUCAS

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Hundreds of people filled Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on Monday to remember and reflect on the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., one of many events across the nation to honor the slain civil rights leader.



Christine King Farris speaks during the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church Monday, Jan. 20, 2014, in Atlanta.

(AP Photo/Jason Getz)

The service at Ebenezer featured prayers, songs, music and speakers. Across the country, there were also speeches, parades, marches and community service projects to honor King, an Atlanta native. About 50 years ago today, King had just appeared on the cover of Time magazine as its Man of the Year, and the nation was on the cusp of passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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IRAN UNPLUGGED

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors and Iranian technicians are on hand to cut the connections between the twin cascades for 20 percent uranium enrichment at Natanz facility, some 200 miles (322 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. Iran has halted its most sensitive uranium enrichment work as part of a landmark deal struck with world powers, state TV said Monday. The broadcast said Iran halted its 20 percent uranium enrichment, which is just steps away from bomb-making materials, by cutting the link feeding cascades enriching uranium in Natanz.

(AP Photo/IRNA, Kazem Ghane)

Iran, US, Europe start implementing nuclear deal

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran unplugged banks of centrifuges involved in its most sensitive uranium enrichment work on Monday, prompting the United States and European Union to partially lift economic sanctions as a landmark deal aimed at easing concerns over Iran's nuclear program went into effect.

The mutual actions — curbing atomic work in exchange for some sanctions relief — start a six-month clock for Tehran and the world powers to negotiate a final accord that the Obama administration and its European allies say will be intended to ensure Iran cannot build a nuclear weapon.

In the meantime, the deal puts limits on Iran's program — though it continues low

levels of uranium enrichment. Tehran denies its nuclear program is intended to produce a bomb.

The payoff to Iran is an injection of billions of dollars into its crippled economy over the next six months from the suspension of some sanctions — though other sanctions remain in place. In part a reflection of a thaw between Washington and Tehran, the moves coincidentally oc-

curred on the 33rd anniversary of the end of the Iran hostage crisis.

The holding of 52 Americans for 444 days by radical Iranian students was followed by more than three decades of U.S.-Iranian enmity that only began to ease last year with signs that Iran was ready to meet U.S. demands and scale back its nuclear activities.

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JAILED AMERICAN IN NORTH KOREA APPEALS FOR HELP

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DAVOS FOUNDER SEES SYRIA, IRAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Page 3

Jailed American Kenneth Bae appears before reporters in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — An American missionary who has been jailed in North Korea for more than a year appeared before reporters Monday and appealed to the U.S. government to do its best to secure his release.

The missionary, Kenneth Bae, made the comments at what he called a press

between the American government and the government of this country," he said.

Bae was arrested in November 2012 while leading a tour group and accused of crimes against the state before being sentenced to 15 years of hard labor. He was moved to a hospital last summer in poor health. He made an apology Mon-

Bae's appearance came weeks after North Korea freed an elderly American veteran of the Korean War who had been held for weeks for alleged crimes during the 1950-53 conflict. State media said 85-year-old Merrill Newman was released because he apologized for his wrongdoing and that authorities also considered his age and



American missionary Kenneth Bae, right, leaves after speaking to reporters at Pyongyang Friendship Hospital in Pyongyang Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. Bae, 45, who has been jailed in North Korea for more than a year, appealed for the U.S. to do its best to secure his release.

(AP Photo/Kim Kwang Hyon)

conference held at his own request. He was under guard during the appearance. It is not unusual for prisoners in North Korea to say after their release that they spoke in similar situations under duress. Wearing a gray cap and inmate's uniform with the number 103 on his chest, Bae spoke in Korean during the brief appearance, which was attended by The Associated Press and a few other foreign media in Pyongyang.

Bae, the longest-serving American detainee in North Korea in recent years, expressed hope that the U.S. government will do its best to win his release. He said he had not been treated badly in confinement.

"I believe that my problem can be solved by close cooperation and agreement

day and said he had committed anti-government acts.

Bae said a comment last month by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden had made his situation more difficult. "The vice president of United States said that I was detained here without any reason," Bae said. "And even my younger sister recently told the press that I had not committed any crime and I know that the media reported it.

"I think these comments infuriated the people here enormously. And for this reason, I am in a difficult situation now. As a result, although I was in medical treatment in the hospital for five months until now, it seems I should return to prison. And moreover there is greater difficulty in discussions about my amnesty."

medical condition. Newman said after his release that a videotaped confession was made under duress, although he was generally treated well.

North Korea has detained at least seven Americans since 2009. They were eventually deported or released without serving out their terms, some after prominent Americans such as former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter traveled to Pyongyang. A senior U.S. envoy had planned to visit North Korea in late August to discuss Bae's release, but Pyongyang withdrew its invitation at the last minute, accusing the United States of hostility. Analysts said North Korea was apparently trying to gain leverage in a long-running international standoff over its nuclear weapons program. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Lawmaker held in corruption probe

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP) — A lawmaker in St. Maarten has been arrested in a corruption probe. Authorities in the Dutch Caribbean country said independent lawmaker Patrick Illidge was being questioned Monday on allegations of bribery and money laundering. Last year, a publicized video showed Illidge seeming to accept stacks of money from the owner of a strip club. The video was sent anonymously to two newspapers. Authorities later announced they were probing allegations that a former opposition leader asked strip club owner Jaap van den Heuvel to make the tape so he could blackmail Illidge to join his political faction and break the ruling coalition. Van den Heuvel was arrested last year. Illidge's lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment.

Guyana finds 2 dead in plane wreck

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Search teams in Guyana have found the bodies of a Canadian pilot and a local man in the wreckage of a small plane that crashed in a remote western jungle. Chris Correia is spokesman for Trans Guyana Airways, the domestic operator that employed Canadian pilot Blake Slater for the last three years. He says search teams on Monday found the bodies of the Toronto man and a local cargo handler inside the crumpled Cessna Caravan in the heavily forested Mazaruni region. Civil Aviation chief Zulfikar Mohamed says the bodies will be flown to the capital of Georgetown as soon as possible. The small aircraft was en route to pick up fuel and other cargo for mining camps when it crashed Saturday. Slater sent out distress calls before the plane crashed.

U.S. man missing after Cayman dive

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Rescuers in the Cayman Islands are searching for a North Carolina man who has gone missing during a diving excursion off a popular beach. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service says 57-year-old David Byles of Pinehurst, North Carolina, was last seen Sunday morning during an organized dive at Barracuda Wall off Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach. Police said Monday that Byles had surfaced with his wife and they were swimming the roughly 100 yards (90 meters) back to the boat when he vanished from view. An immediate search of the area by the boat's crew failed to find him. Since then, police divers and various other personnel have conducted marine and air searches. Private boats are helping. But no sign of the North Carolina man has been found.

Trinidad: majority of oil spill cleaned

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Trinidad's government says a state-owned petroleum company cleaned up some 4,200 barrels of oil from a recent spill in the island's southwest region, but that a mangrove section remains contaminated. A total of 7,500 barrels of oil were spilled last month along nearly 11 miles (18 kilometers) of beach, the majority of which has been cleaned, according to Allan Bachan, chairman of the island's Environmental Management Authority. He said this weekend that Petrotrin officials indicated the remaining oil has either evaporated or was dispersed by the ocean. He announced that those living along Coffee Beach are allowed to once again light fires at their homes for cooking, noting that the air quality is no longer hazardous or flammable.



Police officers gather to be briefed at the congress center where the World Economic Forum will take place in Davos, Switzerland, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. The world's financial and political elite will head this week to the Swiss Alps for 2014's gathering of the World Economic Forum at the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Davos: Founder says Syria, Iran in spotlight

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— Talks over the future of Syria and Iran will occur on the sidelines of the annual gathering for political and financial elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, the founder of the World Economic Forum said Monday. Klaus Schwab said in an interview with the Associated Press that there will be crossover between the forum's 2,500 participants and the more than 30 foreign ministers attending the start of the Syria peace conference several hours away in Montreux, Switzerland.

Syria's main, Western-backed opposition group threatened Monday to sit out this week's peace conference that is trying to end the country's devastating civil war. But the head of the opposition has confirmed his attendance in Davos.

"Here you have some of the true leaders with the influence on the region, so I am sure the results will have an impact on our own discussions," said Schwab, a German-born economist and engineer who founded the Davos forum in 1971. Since then, the five-day gathering, which attracts heads of state, royalty and top executives, has grown into a massive networking event — what some consider speed-dating for the political and corporate elites.

Iranian leaders will also be

present at Davos just as some international sanctions on their country are lifted after they agreed to limit the national nuclear program.

But Schwab said it would be too early for Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his foreign minister, Javad Zarif, to start negotiating new investments while at the forum. First, they need to boost international trust that Iran will respect the terms of their nuclear deal.

"We have to create the reality which allows confidence between the different parties, and only in the next phase you can really talk about business," Schwab said of the Iranians' prospects for new oil, gas and other business deals.

Iran's participation in the Syrian peace talks is complicating the prospects for those discussions. Ahmad Ramadan, a senior member of the Syrian National Coalition, said the opposition group is "suspending" its participation because of the invitation to Iran.

Discussions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are also expected at the Davos forum, with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni all attending. The flagging Mideast peace process is a priority for U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who is expected in Davos for most of the event, which lasts through Saturday. □

Iran, US, Europe start implementing nuclear deal

Continued from Front

British Foreign Secretary William Hague called the deal "an important milestone" — but not the ultimate goal.

"It's important that other sanctions are maintained and the pressure is maintained for a comprehensive and final settlement on the Iranian nuclear issue," Hague said.

The Europeans are aiming to start negotiations on a final deal in February, though no date or venue has been agreed on yet. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Saturday that Tehran is ready to enter talks as

produce nuclear fuel but is difficult to reconvert for weapons use, the official IRNA news agency said.

After receiving independent confirmation of the steps from the United Nations watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, EU foreign ministers in Brussels approved the partial sanctions suspension. The White House also announced the suspension of some American sanctions on Iran.

"These actions represent the first time in nearly a decade that Iran has verifiably enacted measures to halt progress on its nuclear program, and roll it back in key respects," White House

percent enriched uranium and will convert half of it to oxide over a period of six months. The remaining half will be diluted to a level below 5 percent level within three months.

Uranium enriched to a high degree — above 90 percent — can be used to build a nuclear warhead. Enriched below 5 percent, it can power an electricity-generating reactor, and at 20 percent it can power reactors used to produce medical isotopes. The enrichment is done by spinning the uranium in a series of centrifuges.

Iran will also refrain from commissioning its under-construction 40 mega-



An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspector cuts the connections between the twin cascades for 20 percent uranium enrichment at the Natanz facility, some 200 miles (322 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/IRNA, Kazem Ghane)

soon as the interim deal goes into force.

In the first step of the interim accord, Iranian state TV said authorities disconnected cascades of centrifuges producing 20-percent enriched uranium at the Natanz facility in central Iran. The broadcast said international inspectors were on hand to witness the stoppage before leaving to monitor suspension of enrichment at Fordo, another site in central Iran. Iran also started

Monday to convert part of its stockpile of 20-percent enriched uranium to oxide, which can be used to

press secretary Jay Carney said in a statement.

He said Iran is also providing U.N. inspectors with increased transparency, including more frequent and intrusive inspections. "Taken together, these concrete actions represent an important step forward," he said.

Under the deal reached in November in Geneva, Iran agreed to halt its 20 percent enrichment program but continue enrichment up to 5 percent.

Iranian Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi said his country has a total of 196 kilograms (432 pounds) of 20

watt heavy water reactor in Arak, central Iran. That reactor can produce plutonium, another route to building a warhead.

Under the deal, the number of IAEA inspectors in Iran will "roughly double," said Tero Varjoranta, an agency deputy director general. That would increase the agency's presence on the ground to a maximum of eight inspectors in Iran at any time.

The Geneva deal allows Iran to continue exporting crude oil in its current level, which is reported to be about 1 million barrels a day. □

Speeches, marches mark Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

Continued from Front

But many of the themes of the civil rights struggle, such as poverty, violence and voting rights, still resonate with people.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal said there were not many

states that can boast a native son that merits a national holiday before saying, "but we Georgians can."

leaders have suggested a statue at the state Capitol. President Barack Obama honored Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of service by

Breakfast, urging them to protect voting rights. New York City's new Mayor Bill de Blasio marked the day by talking about

of that opportunity, and those whose dreams of a better life are being deferred again and again," he told an audience at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

In Memphis, Tennessee, where King was assassinated, an audio recording of an interview with King was played at the National Civil Rights Museum. The recording sheds new light on a phone call President John F. Kennedy made to King's wife more than 50 years ago.

Historians generally agree Kennedy's phone call to Coretta Scott King expressing concern over her husband's arrest in October 1960 — and Robert Kennedy's work behind the scenes to get King released — helped JFK win the White House.

The reel-to-reel audiotape was discovered by a man cleaning out his father's attic. The father, an insurance salesman, had interviewed King for a book he was writing, but never completed it and stored the recording with other interviews he'd done.

King was born Jan. 15, 1929, and he would've been 85 years old. The federal holiday is the third Monday in January and has been celebrated since 1986. □



The men's choir from the People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md., sing at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. The nation paused to remember Martin Luther King Jr. Monday with parades, marches and service projects. King was born Jan. 15, 1929, and the federal holiday is the third Monday in January.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Deal said this year he would work with state legislators to find an appropriate way to honor the Nobel Peace Prize winner at the Georgia Capitol, which drew a standing ovation from the audience. He did not give any specifics, but civil rights

helping a soup kitchen prepare its daily meals and a host of administration figures fanned out across the capital to appear at holiday events.

Vice President Joe Biden addressed the National Action Network's MLK

economic inequality, saying it was "closing doors for hard-working people in this city and all over this country."

"We have a city sadly divided between those with opportunity, with the means to fully partake

New York Poll: Majority of voters say they would re-elect Cuomo

JESSE MCKINLEY

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With his re-election campaign looming, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has enviable approval ratings from New York voters and general support for many of his newest proposals, including legalizing medical marijuana, according to a new poll.

But his specific plan for the drug - to use an obscure 1980 law, and not an act of the state Legislature, to provide it to patients - is much less popular. The poll, conducted last week by Siena College, was full of good news for Cuomo, who has yet to campaign in earnest but

has over \$33 million in his campaign coffers. The poll asked the opinions of some 800 registered voters in the state, and a solid two-thirds said they viewed Cuomo favorably; 54 percent gave him a positive assessment of his job performance and a solid majority - 57 percent - said they were ready to re-elect him.

Cuomo, a Democrat, also had a much better reputation among voters than two of his possible Republican opponents. The poll found that Rob Astorino, the Westchester County executive, is largely unknown by state voters and would be handily defeated in a head-to-head matchup

with Cuomo. And Donald Trump, the real estate developer and reality television star, is very well known - but largely disliked; the poll found 57 percent had an unfavorable impression of him. Cuomo would best Trump with 70 percent of the vote, the poll said.

The governor seemed to have wide support for a number of initiatives he proposed this month in his annual address to the Legislature, including a \$2 billion bond act for schools, universal pre-K for the state, increased penalties for texting while driving and a variety of tax cuts.

However, the rosy outlook for Cuomo did not neces-

sarily carry over to specific issues that were addressed by the poll. Asked whether the governor's policies had made for a better business climate, more voters said he had had only a little effect.

Less than 30 percent of voters said the state's economy was "excellent" or "good," with 69 percent describing its fiscal condition as "poor" or "fair."

And when it came to the governor's recent embrace of marijuana as medicine, voters seemed to like the idea - about 80 percent approved - but expressed displeasure with Cuomo's methods of making it happen. □

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Christie aide says Hoboken treated no differently

ANGELA DELLI SANTI
Associated Press

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)

— Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's administration on Monday pushed back against a claim that Superstorm Sandy relief funding was withheld from a severely flooded city because its Democratic mayor wouldn't sign off on a politically connected real estate venture. Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno strongly denied Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer's claims as "false" and "illogical" on Monday, the day before Christie's second-term inauguration. And Marc Ferzan, executive director of the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, told reporters in a conference call that Hoboken has been treated no differently than other cities with respect to storm relief funds. Zimmer said on Saturday that Guadagno pulled her aside at a supermarket opening in May and said Hoboken's storm recovery funds hinged on Zimmer's approval of a commercial development whose lawyer and lobbyist are close to the governor. On Sunday, Zimmer told CNN the ultimatum was delivered on behalf of the governor, a possible 2016 presidential candidate.

Guadagno said the mayor's description of the conversation "is not only false but is illogical and does not withstand scrutiny when all of the facts are examined." "Any suggestion that Sandy funds were tied to the approval of any project in

New Jersey is completely false," she said.

Zimmer met with investigators from the U.S. attorney's office for several hours on Sunday and gave them journal entries she said were made at the time of the conversation. She also has offered to take a lie-detector test or testify under oath.

Ferzan, during his conference call, declined to comment on the "back and forth" regarding Zimmer's claims. But he said claims that Hoboken received less than its fair share of disaster aid were a "mischaracterization." Superstorm Sandy, which was spawned in October 2012 when Hurricane Sandy merged with two other weather systems, killed people in 10 states, but New Jersey and New York were hit the hardest. It's New Jersey's worst natural disaster.

Ferzan said the state has received more than \$14 billion in requests statewide for Hazard Mitigation grants but has only about \$300 million to disburse. Christie administration officials have said Hoboken has requested more than \$100 million in such funding. "Obviously \$300 million versus \$14 billion, that's a big delta," Ferzan said.

He said the state has tried to prioritize its funding and programs to address the "communities most in need" and purposely directed most of the recovery funding toward homeowners, business owners and renters.

Federal authorities and



Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno speaks to a group of volunteers during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service in Union Beach, N.J., Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. Guadagno denied allegations by the Hoboken mayor that Superstorm Sandy relief funding was withheld from Hoboken because the mayor wouldn't sign off on a politically connected real estate venture.

(AP Photo/The Asbury Park Press, Tanya Breen)

state legislators are investigating another scandal involving the Christie administration — allegations that the governor's top aides orchestrated traffic jams in a northern New Jersey town, Fort Lee, by blocking off lanes to the George Washington Bridge, possibly to punish the town's

Democratic mayor for not endorsing the governor for re-election.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, a former chairman of the state Democratic Party who is leading a legislative probe, said the new allegations may be part of a pattern of abuses of power in the Christie ad-

ministration and would be treated seriously.

Republicans called the investigation partisan and called on Wisniewski to step down. Wisniewski said the investigation by his bipartisan panel would continue. The lieutenant governor did not take questions on Monday. □



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Olympics security worries American officials

BRIAN KNOWLTON

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WASHINGTON - Tensions continue to rise over security preparations ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, as several US congressional leaders expressed concern about Russia's willingness to share information about terrorist threats, while President Vladimir Putin asserted that he would "do whatever it takes" to protect the thousands of visitors arriving soon for the games. The separate remarks, made Sunday morning news programs, came before a video was released online showing two young men who said they were behind suicide bombings in the central Russian city Volgograd last month that claimed 34 lives. In the video, the men threaten to carry out more attacks. In a statement posted with the video on its website, the militant group Vilayat Dagestan claimed responsibility for the Volgograd bombings, The Associated Press reported.

Extremists affiliated with Doku Umarov, a former Chechen nationalist leader who now heads a broad Muslim separatist movement and advocates global jihad, have also vowed to disrupt the Olympics. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich. and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said Sunday that U.S. officials working with Russians ahead of the games had "found a departure of cooperation that is very concerning."

Rogers said that with an estimated 15,000 Americans planning to travel to Sochi, a resort town on the Black

Sea, for the games, which begin Feb. 7, Russian security services should provide their "full cooperation." On the CNN program "State of the Union," Rogers said, "They're not giving us the full story about, what are the threat streams, who do we need to worry about, are those groups - the ter-

Sochi, but also other parts of Russia. "If necessary, all those tools will be activated."

He added that if foreign athletes wanted to provide their own additional security, "there is nothing wrong with that," as long as they coordinated with the Russian authorities.

The Russians have promised to surround Sochi with a "ring of steel," but, McCaul said on "This Week," "it's more likely that the attacks would probably happen outside the perimeter - more soft targets, transportation modes." McCaul said he would travel to Sochi on Monday



Cossack officers make rounds at Rosa Khutor, a skiing center in Sochi, Russia, Jan. 17, 2014. Hundreds of Cossacks are joining regular security forces at Olympics venues like Rosa Khutor, gaining a new urgency to combat terrorism throughout the games due to recent suicide bombings in late December.

(James Hill/The New York Times)

rorist groups who have had some success - are they still plotting?"

On ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, Putin said Russia would "do whatever it takes" to protect people at the winter games. And he reiterated that Russia would welcome athletes and visitors of any sexual orientation, despite recently enacted laws in Russia that are widely viewed as hostile to gay people.

Putin said a full panoply of security measures was being put in place, not just in

Rep. Michael T. McCaul, R-Texas and the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, also expressed concern about the preparations in Sochi, though he said he believed that "President Putin is taking this very seriously" and "taking all the precautions."

But given the recent deadly attacks by regional terrorist groups and the threats of more to come, McCaul said he thought that it was likely that attacks would occur somewhere in Russia during the Olympics.

to confer with security officials, in part to study their plans for evacuations in the event of an attack.

Several FBI officials will be in Sochi to attend to the security of the U.S. contingent. Meanwhile, amid complaints from foreign athletes and officials about Russia's nationwide ban last year on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations," which makes it a crime to mention homosexuality around minors, Putin insisted that visitors had nothing to fear.

Court to decide on child pornography victims restitution

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman whose childhood rapes by her uncle were captured on camera and widely traded on the Internet wants the Supreme Court to make it easier for victims of child pornography to collect money from people who view the brutal images on their computers. The case being argued at the Supreme Court on Wednesday involves a Texas man who pleaded guilty to having images of children engaged in sex acts on his computer. Doyle Randall Paroline is appealing an order holding him responsible for the full amount of losses, nearly \$3.4 million, suffered by the woman known as Amy. Of the several hundred incriminating images on Paroline's computer, just two were of Amy. Advocates for child pornography victims say that holding defendants liable for the entire amount of losses better reflects the ongoing harm that victims suffer each time someone views the images online. "The threat that a person in the child pornography market may well bear the entire cost of the harm done to the victim, even if they are a 'minor player,' is likely to be a large deterrent, especially when the harm done typically runs into the millions for a victim's lifetime of care," said Marci Hamilton, a law professor at Yeshiva University. Hamilton wrote a brief in the case on behalf of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Nonprofit clinic offers care to Philadelphia's illegal immigrants

JON HURDLE

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PHILADELPHIA - Like many other immigrants, Mery Martinez has no legal status in the United States, no health insurance and no

amined, given a flu shot and advised on how to navigate the health system by Spanish-speaking volunteer doctors and nurses who run the clinic two evenings a week.

hospitals, universities and governmental institutions, many of the patients - like Martinez - live in fear of immigration officials.

The new federal health care law does not provide

with their own money.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, such immigrants are exempt from the requirement to have insurance. They remain eligible for certain types of emergency care under Medicaid if they have low incomes and meet other criteria, and they may receive care from free and charitable clinics in some places. Puentes, which has treated about 3,300 patients, caters largely to people whose lack of insurance and legal immigration status may make them ineligible for treatment under other programs. Many patients are further handicapped by poor or nonexistent English, limiting their ability to navigate a complex health system.

The organization will obtain Martinez's medical records from Bellevue Hospital Center in New York, where she was previously treated, and arrange for her to see an oncologist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. With a life-threatening condition, she is expected to qualify for free treatment under

Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Assistance Program once she is enrolled. For the treatment and advice at the clinic, Martinez paid \$20; any subsequent visits will cost her \$10 each. The minimal fees are a necessity to Martinez, who since walking across the Mexican border into Texas in 2003 has worked as a house cleaner but is now unemployed and, she said, has no income. She settled in Philadelphia after leaving New York because, she said, she could no longer afford to live there. She eats with friends and avoids going to food pantries because she fears her illegal status will be discovered.

"I don't want to use them," she said through an interpreter, in a tearful interview. "I might be deported."

The low costs for patients are made possible by volunteer services by Larson and other medical staff members and by in-kind donations ranging from real estate to flu shots. With a budget of just \$350,000 in 2013. □



Mery Martinez, who has leukemia, is examined by Daphne Owen and Dr. Steve Larson at Puentes de Salud in Philadelphia, Jan. 15, 2014. Puentes de Salud is a nonprofit group of doctors, nurses and medical students that provides primary care to Philadelphia's undocumented and uninsured immigrants.

(William Widmer/The New York Times)

money.

But she does have leukemia, and has been struggling to find treatment for the disease, first in New York and more recently in Philadelphia. Here, a hospital emergency room rejected her on New Year's Day because she had not yet qualified for the state assistance that could have paid for the medical attention she needed.

With rising anxiety, and a rash that she attributed to her illness, Martinez walked into a clinic last week run by Puentes de Salud, a nonprofit group of doctors, nurses and medical students that provides primary care to Philadelphia's undocumented, uninsured and impoverished Latino immigrants.

In a consulting room provided by the University of Pennsylvania's medical school, Martinez, 38, who is from Honduras, was ex-

Puentes de Salud, which in English means "bridges of health," was founded to provide low-cost but quality health care and social services to the growing Latino population in South Philadelphia and began treating patients in 2006. A co-founder, Dr. Steve Larson, said the organization distinguished itself from other community-health groups by addressing the underlying causes of illness, like poor nutrition, illiteracy or urban violence.

"It's not about me writing prescriptions," said Larson, 53, a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Pennsylvania who said he began to develop his approach to community medicine while working in rural Nicaragua in the early 1990s. "This is an underground health system." While Puentes operates openly in partnership with community organizations,

assistance to illegal immigrants, who are generally ineligible for Medicaid, cannot get federal subsidies for private insurance and cannot use the new insurance exchanges to buy unsubsidized insurance

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Syria peace talks: UN rescinds Iran invitation to conference

RYAN
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A last-minute U.N. invitation for Iran to join this week's Syria peace talks threw the long-awaited Geneva conference into doubt Monday, forcing U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon to rescind his offer under in-

LUCAS

negotiations between the Syrian government and its opponents — the first of the uprising — are to start Friday in Geneva. The uproar over Iran's invitation put the entire event at risk of being scuttled. The Syrian National Coalition, which had voted late Saturday to attend after

President Bashar Assad's family since 1970, and Iran is Assad's strongest regional ally, supplying his government with advisers, money and materiel since the uprising began in 2011. The Islamic Republic's allies, most notably the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah, have also gone



Jordanian Foreign Minister and President of the United Nations Security Council Nasser Judeh, right, has a conversation with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the Security Council meeting began at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

tense U.S. pressure after the opposition threatened to boycott. With the invitation withdrawn, the main Western-backed opposition group said it would attend the talks aimed at ending Syria's ruinous three-year civil war. The opposition said the conference should seek to establish a transitional government with full executive powers "in which killers and criminals do not participate." The surprise invitation, extended Sunday by the U.N. secretary-general, set off a flurry of diplomatic activity to salvage the talks. The U.S. said the offer should be rescinded, and the opposition threatened to skip the event entirely.

The conference is set to begin Wednesday in the Swiss luxury resort city of Montreux, with high-ranking delegations from the United States, Russia and close to 40 other countries attending. Face-to-face

months of rancorous debate, issued an ultimatum, saying that Iran must commit publicly within hours to withdraw its "troops and militias" from Syria and abide by a 2012 roadmap to establish a transitional government. Otherwise, the group said, the U.N. should withdraw its invitation for Tehran to take part. The confusion surrounding the Iranian invitation underscored the tenuous nature of the diplomatic effort to end the bloody conflict, which has morphed from peaceful protests into a vicious civil war with outside powers backing rebels who are fighting not only the government but rival insurgents as well.

It is not clear what exactly motivated Ban to issue the invitation, but it came hours after he said he had received assurances from Tehran that it accepted the premise of the talks. Syria has been ruled by

to Syria to help bolster Assad's forces.

The last-minute invitation appeared to take the U.S. and its European allies by surprise. An Iranian statement said Iran had accepted the offer without "any pre-conditions."

Ban said he was "deeply disappointed" by Iran's statements Monday.

Senior U.S. officials said Iran has not met the criteria to participate in the conference unless it fully and publicly endorses the aims of the meeting. Speaking to reporters in a conference call, the officials said public statements from Iran fall "well short" of what is required for Tehran's participation, adding that they expect the U.N. to reevaluate and reverse its decision unless Iran changes course. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter using their names. □

US Soldier killed in Taliban attack on Afghan-US Base

MATTHEW ROSENBERG
TAIMOOR SHAH
© 2014 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan - Backed by a truck bomb, Taliban gunmen in military fatigues staged a brazen raid Monday against a sprawling base shared by U.S. and Afghan forces in southern Afghanistan. Afghan officials said a U.S. soldier was killed in the attack, which took place a few miles from where the Taliban movement was founded nearly 20 years ago.

The assault on Forward Operating Base Pasab was the first major Taliban attack since the insurgents killed 21 civilians, 13 of them foreigners, at a popular Lebanese restaurant in Kabul on Friday. Both the restaurant attack and the assault Monday followed a well-established pattern used by militants across the region: A suicide bomber went in first to clear the way for gunmen. Used on Friday against the lightly guarded restaurant, Taverna du Liban, the tactic resulted in a massacre. But employed against the well-fortified military base Monday, it was a near failure - the U.S. soldier and all nine attackers were the only ones killed.

According to Afghan officials and officers from the NATO-led coalition, the assault on the base, which is in the Zhare district of Kandahar province, began shortly after 10 a.m. when a small truck packed with explosives drove up to the main gate of Pasab. The driver set off a powerful blast, killing himself and the U.S. soldier, said Jamal Agha, the governor of the district. Within seconds of the explosion, a minivan sped to the gate, and eight gunmen clad in military fatigues and wearing suicide vests jumped out and tried to storm the base, officials said, though accounts differed on whether the insurgents' uniforms were Afghan or American.

The attackers proved no match for the troops defending Pasab. The U.S. surveillance around Pasab is extensive - cameras are mounted on masts and attached to balloons suspended hundreds of feet in the air - and U.S. and Afghan soldiers "quickly engaged with the attackers and killed all eight bombers before they could enter the base," said Agha, whose compound is near the main entrance of Pasab.

Sarwar Khan, who leads the district's council of elders, said he was sitting in the governor's compound when he heard the blast, followed by about 15 gunshots. The attack was over so quickly, he said, that he did not realize until later that he was nearly caught in a major assault.

The Taliban quickly took responsibility for the attack, claiming to have inflicted heavy casualties at what Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, an insurgent spokesman, described as a "huge American base."

His description of Pasab would have been accurate up until the fall of 2012, when the Americans began quickly paring down the surge forces they had deployed to southern Afghanistan.

At the height of the surge, from 2010 to 2012, an entire U.S. brigade of roughly 4,500 soldiers was based at Pasab and at dozens of other small combat outposts in Zhare. When the Americans first arrived, the Taliban held sway over much of the district, and attacks on bases were a near daily occurrence.

But in the years since, U.S. and Afghan forces have managed to assert control over the dozens of mud brick villages that dot the grape and opium fields of the rural district, and Taliban attacks have become less frequent. Even Sangesar, the village where Mullah Muhammad Omar operated a mosque and founded the Taliban, is nominally under government control. □

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Iraq: Militants possess enough firepower to occupy capital

ADAM SCHRECK

SAMEER N. YACOUB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic militants controlling a mainly Sunni area west of Baghdad are so well-armed that they could occupy the capital, a top Iraqi official warned Monday, a frank and bleak assessment of the challenge posed in routing the insurgents as a new wave of bombings killed at least 31 people.

Since late December, members of Iraq's al-Qaida branch — known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant — have taken over parts of Ramadi, the capital of the largely Sunni western province of Anbar. They also control the center of the nearby city of Fallujah, along with other non-al-Qaida militants who also oppose the Shiite-led government.

Iraqi government forces backed by Sunni tribal militias launched an all-out offensive Sunday to seize back control of Ramadi and surrounding areas from the militants. Five government-allied tribesmen were killed in the initial fighting, and 15 tribesmen and government forces were wounded, provincial spokesman Dhari al-Rishawi said.

Fierce clashes continued Monday, with government forces and allied tribesmen struggling to advance in the face of tough resistance, according to local police.

Al-Rishawi said the al-Qaida militants are especially active at night, and are employing snipers to stop government forces from advancing.

Two policemen and a local television cameraman who had been accompanying them were killed when a roadside bomb hit their convoy inside Ramadi, police said.

An even bigger fight could

lie ahead in nearby Fallujah, which like Ramadi was once a major battleground for U.S. forces.

"The weapons that were

He did not elaborate on the type or quantity of the weapons, but described "fierce battles" there and in Ramadi.

to pull off for an al-Qaida guerrilla force than the seizure of much smaller Fallujah.

Even so, Interior Ministry

"Al-Qaida in Iraq has plenty of weapons and fighters," he said, without offering details. "If military action was not taken and if the operation by security forces was delayed for a few weeks, there would have been an assault on Baghdad."

Sporadic clashes erupted in Fallujah Monday afternoon but had stopped by nightfall. Shops there were mainly shuttered and city streets were eerily empty as residents hunkered down or fled for safer ground. Much of the city lacks electricity, according to residents.

Two civilians were wounded in the city and a number of houses were damaged when artillery shells hit them, according to local hospital officials. It was unclear who launched the shells.

The unrest in Anbar and other mainly Sunni-dominated provinces has uprooted thousands of people from their homes as they flee the fighting.

Bassem al-Falahi, a Fallujah taxi driver whose house was damaged in the shelling, said the blast was the last straw.

"All my neighbors left the area several days ago, but I decided to stay because my house is far away from the clashes," he said. □



Civilians gather at the site of a car bomb attack at an outdoor market in Baghdad al-Jadidah district, Iraq, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014. A series of bombings in central Iraq killed dozens of people on Monday, as a government official claimed that al-Qaida-linked fighters have dug in to a city they seized last month and possess enough heavy weapons to storm into the country's capital.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

brought inside Fallujah are huge and advanced and frankly enough to occupy Baghdad," Deputy Interior Minister Adnan al-Asadi said in a speech.

Bomb attacks frequently strike Baghdad. But a military assault on the heavily guarded capital, with an estimated 7 million residents, would be far harder

spokesman Saad Maan Ibrahim said this week's assault in Anbar was needed to keep the fighters from trying to storm the capital itself.

C. African Republic chooses mayor as new leader

HIPPOLYTE MARBOUA

KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — Members of a national transitional council chose the female mayor of Central African Republic's capital to lead the country out of chaos Monday, as a top U.N. official urged the international community to keep the nation from "crossing the tipping-point into an all-out sectarian conflict."

At two meetings in Brussels, international donors pledged a total of \$496 mil-

lion in humanitarian assistance and European Union foreign ministers took a first step toward potentially deploying hundreds more troops to reinforce French and African peacekeepers to secure the lawless and violent country where nearly one million people are displaced.

Bangui Mayor Catherine Samba-Panza was chosen as interim president after two rounds of voting, becoming the first female leader in the country's history. She beat out Desire Zanga-

Kolingba, the son of a former president in Monday's runoff. Samba-Panza, dressed in a bright pink suit jacket, thrust her arms into the air in victory.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius described the 59-year-old Samba-Panza as a "very remarkable woman."

Samba-Panza, a longtime corporate lawyer in the insurance industry who took over the mayor's office last June, now will be tasked with organizing national elections before the end of 2014, a job critics say may

be nearly impossible given the amount of looting and destruction to administrative buildings throughout the country. She also faces the enormous task of stemming anarchy and bloodshed that has left an untold number dead since a March 2013 coup. An armed Christian movement known as the anti-Balaka arose in opposition to the mostly Muslim Seleka rebellion that seized power then. "I call on my children, especially the anti-Balaka, to put down their arms and stop all the fighting. □

Hollande says French first lady on the mend, resting

JAMEY KEATEN

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — French President Francois Hollande is traveling abroad, hoping to concentrate on state business. It's his alleged monkey business that's on many minds instead.

The French leader is in the international spotlight after a gossip magazine reported that he's having an affair with an actress and his first lady spent a week in the hospital.

The attention to his sex life threatens to overshadow Hollande's efforts to wield influence on trade, Syria and peacekeeping in Africa.

He's off on five foreign trips in the next few weeks, including to tabloid-friendly Britain and culminating in a protocol-heavy state visit to the United States, where late-night comedy TV has already pilloried him.

The first public question he

faced on his first international trip since the scandal broke Monday was about his partner, 48-year-old journalist Valerie Trierweiler. They have lived together since 2007, but have never

been married. In The Hague, Netherlands, a French TV reporter asked whether Trierweiler is still officially the first lady. For the second time in a week, he dodged the question. "Valerie Trierwei-

ler is doing better, and is resting at the Lanterne," a presidential residence in the formal royal haunt of Versailles, Hollande said, refusing to elaborate. Alongside him was Dutch



A view of the official residence La Lanterne, in Versailles, west of Paris, where France's first lady Valerie Trierweiler is reported to be resting, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

married.

In The Hague, Netherlands, a French TV reporter asked whether Trierweiler is still officially the first lady.

For the second time in a week, he dodged the question. "Valerie Trierwei-

ler is doing better, and is resting at the Lanterne," a presidential residence in the formal royal haunt of Versailles, Hollande said, refusing to elaborate. Alongside him was Dutch

Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who is not married and has generally ducked questions about his love life.

Trierweiler left a hospital on Saturday after a week suffering from what aides called severe shock,

prompted when gossip magazine Closer published images of what it says is Hollande sneaking out to see actress Julie Gayet. Hollande has not denied the allegation.

Trierweiler hadn't been expected to join Hollande in The Hague or on any other upcoming trips except the U.S. state visit Feb. 11, a glitzy event where her absence would likely stand out.

On Saturday, De Telegraaf, the Netherlands' largest circulation newspaper, published a story attempting to explain how Hollande with his "receding hairline and glasses" could be so appealing to several accomplished, desirable women. Its suggestion that power acts as an aphrodisiac — especially among simians — was underlined with a caricature of a pot-bellied, grinning Hollande in a gorilla suit.

After the laid-back Netherlands, Hollande heads to

the Vatican. Roman Catholic teaching doesn't allow divorce or sex outside of marriage for its flock. But Pope Francis has been determined to reshape the image of the Church from a stern institution into a welcoming one, and isn't likely to publicly address Hollande's alleged peccadilloes. Next week, Hollande leaves on an official visit to Turkey — the first in 22 years by a French president — to meet with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan's Islamic-based, conservative government scorns sex outside of marriage and recently spoke of banning mixed-gender student residences.

Turkey's independent press has urged Trierweiler to leave the French presidential palace, and Vatan newspaper referred to Hollande as a "motorized womanizer" — a reference to his alleged ride to a tryst on the back of a motor scooter. □

Knox lawyers to have last word

COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — A prosecutor urged a court on Monday to take steps to make sure that American Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend would serve their sentences, if they are convicted of murdering British student Meredith Kercher.

Prosecutor Alessandro Crini preceded his request by noting that Knox has remained in the United States for this trial, while co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito has at times traveled abroad. "The situation is unusual," Crini told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the court session. "Usually if someone is convicted of murder, they are already in custody."

But in the long legal saga, both defendants were released by an appeals court that overturned their lower court guilty verdicts, and both were legitimately free when Italy's highest court ordered the case back to another appeals court after blasting the acquittal. Sollecito has attended key court dates, making a statement in one, while



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Panama rejects EU offer to mediate canal dispute

Juan Zamorano
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — The Panama Canal Authority continued infor-

mal talks with a Spanish-led consortium on Monday, seeking to resolve a \$1.6 billion cost-overrun dispute that has threatened to halt

the biggest part of the project to expand the canal. The consortium, led by Spain's Sacyr Vallehermoso, had given a Sunday

deadline for the authority to come up with funds or face a work stoppage. But the project continued at the same 25 to 30 percent activity level it has seen since the conflict arose in November, said canal Administrator Jorge Quijano. The canal authority rejected an offer by the European Union to mediate its dispute with the mostly European construction consortium, United for the Canal.

The contract for completing the third set of locks already includes mechanisms to resolve disputes, and none involve third parties, the authority wrote in an email responding to questions from The Associated Press.

The canal-building group said in a brief statement Sunday that a stoppage "is not a scenario being considered at this moment."

The Panama Canal Authority has said the contract allows the consortium to stop work only if the agreed monthly payments by the authority are not disbursed, which has not happened.

The project, now three-fourths complete, would double the capacity of the 50-mile (80-kilometer) canal, which carries 5 to 6 percent of world commerce. Quijano said previously that work on the expansion had declined by 70 percent since November and that hundreds of workers were let go because of the slow pace of the megaproject. The consortium blames the cost overruns largely on problems with the studies carried out by the Panamanian authority before work began. It says geological obstacles encountered while excavating have prevented it from getting the basalt needed to make the massive amounts of concrete required for the expansion. Many experts say the root of the conflict lies in the consortium's underestimation of the project's costs when it won the canal expansion contract in 2009 by submitting by far the lowest bid: \$3.1 billion for its portion of the job, \$1 billion less than a bid led by the U.S. construction giant Bechtel. □



A man fishes where a cargo ship sails en route to the Pacific Ocean in Panama City. The Panama Canal is being expanded to accommodate a new generation of larger ships, known as post-Panamax, which have more than twice the carrying capacity of those able to pass through the canal today. But cost overruns are threatening a work stoppage on the canal's expansion.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

St. Lucia police: 3 men questioned in Briton's killing

GUY ELLIS

Associated Press

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — St. Lucia police this weekend were questioning three men in connection with the killing of a British man aboard his yacht. None has yet been arrested, however, and officials wouldn't say if the men might be suspects.

The Royal St. Lucia Police Force said 62-year-old Roger Pratt was killed late Friday when three men boarded his yacht, "Magnetic Attraction," while it was anchored off the southern town of Vieux Fort. Pratt's wife, Margaret, was wounded during the attack. Police say she has been treated and released from a hospital.

The Warwickshire county couple had been sailing

their yacht since June to mark Margaret Pratt's 60th birthday. According to a blog she has kept, they arrived in the Caribbean last month, making it to St. Lucia to celebrate New Year's and later her birthday.

On Friday afternoon, she sent a blog post describing their visit ashore to Vieux Fort to eat lunch and see a doctor for a minor injury to her husband's foot. They returned to their boat, and just before midnight, three armed men boarded the vessel and attacked the couple before fleeing, according to police. Robbery was the apparent motive. "Within minutes of the robbers fleeing, Margaret went in search of her husband and found him floating in the nearby waters," ac-

cording to a police statement.

Investigators have not disclosed how Roger Pratt was killed. An autopsy has been scheduled for Monday. Police have denied a British newspaper's reports that a suspect has been fatally shot by officers.

Tourism Minister Lorne Theophilus assured that law enforcement is working "to bring the perpetrator or perpetrators to justice speedily" and said that St. Lucia remains a "relatively safe" place for tourists and locals. The Caribbean island of about 180,000 people has been struggling to stem a rise in violent crime in recent years that authorities blame on drug trafficking. Police reported 34 killings last year, the lowest number in four years. □

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A rise in gas prices may shatter an old Venezuelan illusion

WILLIAM NEUMAN

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CARACAS, Venezuela - Venezuela has the world's cheapest gasoline, about 6 cents a gallon, a price so low that drivers often fill their tanks for less than a dollar and tip the gas station attendant more than the cost of the fuel pumped into their cars.

With their country holding the world's largest estimated oil reserves, many Venezuelans consider cheap gas almost an inalienable right of citizenship - a coveted remnant of the boom days when Venezuela saw itself riding its oil riches to a first world dream of wealth and status.

But the illusion of inexhaustible wealth that every citizen can effortlessly tap into at the nearest gas station may finally crash into hard reality. President Nicolás Maduro has called for what was once unthinkable: It is time, he has said, to raise the price at the pump.

"I am in total agreement that they should raise it," said Luis Gelvis, 45, a warehouse worker, as he had stopped to fill his aging Chevrolet SUV for 48 cents, less than half the price of a cup of coffee.

But when the gas station attendant pointed out that if the price rose, filling up might cost a couple of dollars, the smile quickly disappeared from Gelvis' face. "No way! That's too much," he said. "If they raise it that much there will be strikes. We'll have people blocking roads."

Maduro has not said when or how much he will raise the price, which has been frozen for 15 years, but the urgency in this beleaguered economy is clear. By some estimates, the government is giving away

\$30 billion worth of gasoline, diesel and other fuels each year, a huge loss at a time when it is running a large deficit, forcing it to print money. The state oil company is borrowing millions of dollars from the central bank to keep running, the country endures chronic shortages of basic goods and last year inflation hit 56 percent, one of the highest rates in the world.

But raising fuel prices can be politically risky, especially for a president like Maduro, who has struggled for acceptance during his first year in office, often viewed as a pale shadow of his charismatic predecessor and mentor, Hugo Chávez. He narrowly won an election to replace Chávez, who died last year, and many ardent Chávez supporters said they had voted for him only out of loyalty to their beloved leader.

Even Chávez, who led Venezuela for 14 years and was critical of the fuel subsidies, never ventured to raise gas prices. Part of the taboo here is a common association between a gasoline price increase in 1989 and days of rioting in which hundreds of people died.

"The fact that a government that has been so reluctant to do this is finally saying they need to do this tells you how bad things must be," Javier Corrales, a professor of political science at Amherst College, said of the economic situation in Venezuela.

The balancing act is a common one for developing nations, particularly those rich in natural resources. In Latin America, the Middle East and Asia, protests have erupted in recent years when gov-

ernments have cut fuel subsidies. In Indonesia, a 30 percent increase in fuel prices in 2008 led to bloody rioting. In oil-rich Nigeria, protesters paralyzed the nation in 2012 over a rollback in fuel subsidies. In Bolivia, protesters laid siege to the capital in 2010, forcing President Evo Morales, a close ally of Maduro, to quickly abandon a cut in gasoline subsidies.

Venezuelan officials have

"Will it go?" he said late last month. "It will go."

Rafael Ramírez, the powerful president of the state oil company who is also the energy minister and vice president in charge of the economy, said last month that the break-even cost of high-octane gasoline, which is what most people buy, would be the equivalent of \$1.62 a gallon, far higher than what is charged now.

for free.

Many oil-producing countries sell their citizens cheap gasoline, but Venezuela is an outlier even in such company. A 2012 survey commissioned by the German government found that Venezuelan fuel prices were the world's cheapest, far below those of other major oil exporters like Saudi Arabia, where gasoline costs the equivalent of about 60 cents a gallon,



Travelers pass through "Dead Man's Corner," a street named after a fabled war story in Caracas, Venezuela. (Meredith Kohut/The New York Times)

said the increase here will probably be gradual, with the goal of eventually charging enough to cover the costs of producing the gasoline.

"What is fair is to say that we have to charge for the hydrocarbons that we sell in the domestic market because we are paying for people to fill their tanks," Maduro said this month. He denied that the government needed the extra income to balance its books this year and called for a national dialogue on the issue. But he has insisted that an increase will happen.

Venezuelans use about 323,000 barrels of gasoline a day, Ramírez said last year. And despite having enormous oil reserves, Venezuela has imported tens of thousands of barrels of gasoline a day from the United States over the last two years, according to the Energy Information Administration in Washington, because of problems at refineries. So in effect, the Venezuelan government has been paying market prices - which averaged about \$2.70 a gallon last year - to import gasoline that it gives away almost

and Nigeria, where it costs \$2.35.

The cheap gasoline means that old gas guzzlers clog the streets of Caracas and other large cities, since Venezuelans have little incentive to change.

"The problem is that Venezuelans feel that they have the right to free gasoline," said María Isabel Peña, the director of the Urban Studies Institute at the Central University of Venezuela. The end of cheap gasoline, she said, could be "the start of making people understand the reality of the situation." □



Gandelman Donates To Mary Joan Foundation



ORANJESTAD - Two years ago, Gandelman designed a special white & pink gold bracelet, with the goal to have the proceeds of the sale of these bracelets go to the Mary Joan Foundation, in order to raise awareness for breast cancer.

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In December, after a campaign of two years, Gandelman handed over the check to the Mary Joan Foundation. Gandelman would like to thank all its customers who have contributed to the success of this campaign and its noble cause. Gandelman wishes MJF lots of success in continuing the good work that the foundation does for the Aruban community.

On the photo is Mrs Vanessa Quilotte, Gandelman's Assistant Managing Director and Mrs. Monique Palm, the Foundation's president.

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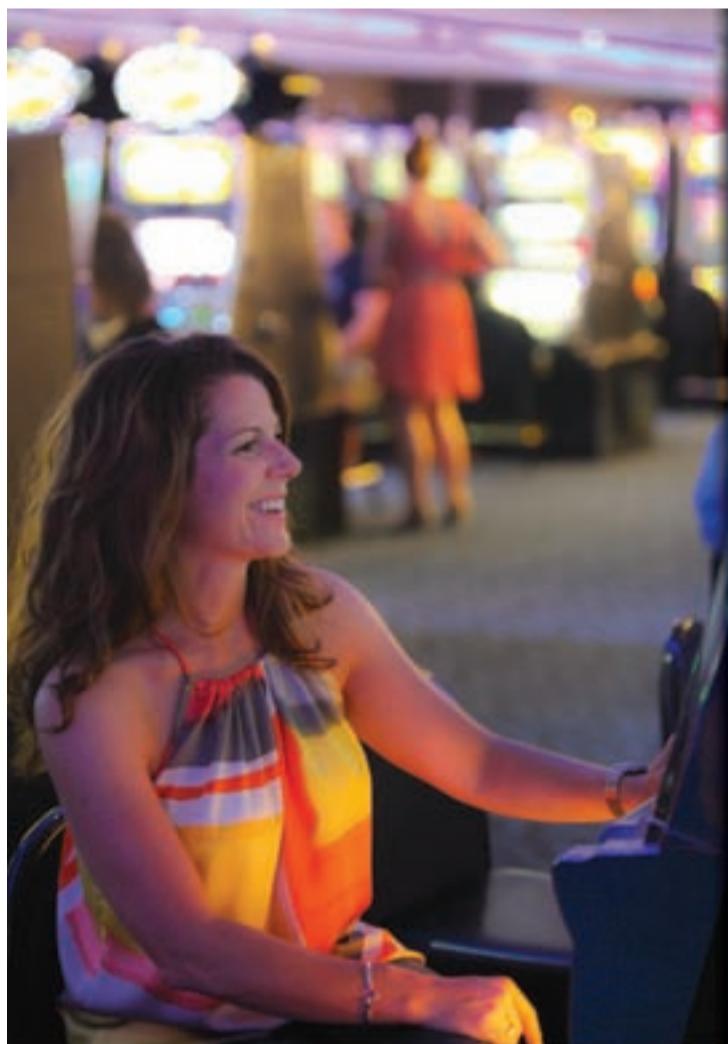
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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****Back in Australia, Federer back in quarterfinals**

JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — When the draw for the Australian Open was made, it wasn't Roger Federer who was being widely touted as the prime contender to claim an 18th major title.

All that hype surrounded Serena Williams, but she was knocked out in the fourth round.

Federer is still three match wins away from that milestone, but after his 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 demolition of No. 10-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Monday night, it's clear he's up for the challenge.

On a day when No. 3 Maria Sharapova was upset by No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova, following top-ranked Williams out of the tournament and opening up the women's draw for defending champion Victoria Azarenka, the leading male contenders on the heavily stacked top half advanced to the quarterfinals. Progressing along with Federer were top-ranked Rafael Nadal, who had a 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-6 (3) win over Kei Nishikori — though he was broken twice and got a time violation in the third set — and Wimbledon champion Andy Murray,



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014.

Associated Press



Orlando Magic's Arron Afflalo (4) gets off a shot between Boston Celtics' Jeff Green, left, and Brandon Bass, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

who overcame a racket-smashing, frustrating finish to the third set to beat Stephane Robert 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-2.

Now for the harder part. Federer is back in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time since last year's French Open — equaling Jimmy Connors' Open-era record with his 41st trip to the last eight in a major. He next plays Murray, a three-time Australian Open finalist. A win could set up a semifinal against Nadal, who next plays first-time major quarterfinalist Grigor Dimitrov.

A win there for Federer would likely set up a final against three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic — the only other man who has won four Australian titles in the Open era. Djokovic is playing his quarterfinal Tuesday against No. 8 Stan Wawrinka. "It's a tough thing to do. I don't know if it's been done before," sixth-seeded Federer said of his tough road to the title. "Then again, if you don't embrace that challenge, you might as well not enter the draw. You might as well stay at home and watch other guys battle it out."

Continued on Page 22

NBA Capsules**Magic down Celtics 93-91 to end 10-game slide**

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Arron Afflalo had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Tobias Harris added 18 points as the Orlando Magic snapped a season-high 10-game losing streak with a 93-91 win over the Boston Celtics on Sunday. After several ties in the fourth quarter, Harris hit a pair of free throws with 10.1 sec-

onds remaining to give Orlando the victory. The win also ends 10-game regular-season losing streak to the Celtics. Glen Davis added 17 points and Jameer Nelson 16 for Orlando. Boston has lost nine straight games on the road and 11 of 12 overall. Jeff Green led the Celtics with 22 points, and Avery Bradley and Kris Humphries added 18

apiece. Rajon Rondo had six points and four assists in his second game back from a torn ACL.

SUNS 117, NUGGETS 103
PHOENIX (AP) — Channing Frye scored a season-high 30 points before sitting out the final 9½ minutes to watch Phoenix wrap up its romp over Denver.

Continued on Page 20

Manning's Broncos to face Seahawks in Super Bowl

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos will face the best defense they've met all season when they play Richard Sherman's Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl.

It will be a matchup between the NFL's No. 1 offense, led by Manning, against the NFL's No. 1 defense led by Sherman, when the AFC's Broncos (15-3) take on the NFC's Seahawks (15-3) on Feb. 2 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

According to STATS, it's the first NFL title game since 1991 pitting the team that scored the most points in the regular season against the team that allowed the fewest.

Providing quite a cap to the season, this marks only the second time in the last 20 Super Bowls that the No. 1 seed in each conference reached the NFL championship game. The only other such matchup since 1994 also involved Manning: His Indianapolis Colts lost to the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

Manning does own one Super Bowl title already, having led the Colts past the Chicago Bears in 2007.

Already the only four-time NFL Most Valuable Player — and expected to earn a fifth such honor when awards are announced the night before the Super Bowl — Manning can become the first starting QB to win titles with two franchises.

"He's been remarkable," said Denver's John Fox, one of six coaches to take two clubs to the league's title game. "It's unprecedented what he did."

In a 26-16 victory over Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game Sunday, Manning was pretty much flawless, going 32 of 43 for 400 yards with two touchdowns.

"Peyton played great today," Brady acknowledged.

And now, inevitably, the two-week buildup until the Super Bowl will be mainly

about Manning, just as this entire season has. He is, after all, the player who set NFL records by throwing for 55 touchdowns and 5,477 yards, helping Denver lead the league with 37.9 points and 457.3 yards per game. He is, already, an inescapable pitchman, seen Sunday after Sunday during TV commercials. Manning's oft-told tale, certain to be repeated a million times in the coming days, includes his comeback from a series of surgical procedures to his neck, attempts to cure problems that led him to sit out the entire 2011 season and led the Colts to send him packing.

Against the Patriots, Manning's offense scored on six consecutive possessions, accounted for more than 500 yards, had zero turnovers and zero sacks. Mannings' opposite number in two weeks, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, provides a real contrast as he seeks his — and the Seahawks' — first Super Bowl trophy.

Manning is 37, in his 16th NFL season, a prototypical pocket passer who was a No. 1 overall draft pick after a stellar college career. Wilson is 6 inches shorter, 12 years younger, a skilled scrambler in only his second pro season after slipping to the third round of the draft; he's a guy who had to transfer colleges to get playing time and thought about pursuing a baseball career instead. Clearly, Wilson picked the right sport.

"Any time you get to the Super Bowl," Wilson said after Seattle beat the San Francisco 49ers 23-17 on Sunday, "it's a special time."

Seattle's defense, led by Sherman, allowed an average of 14.4 points and 273.6 yards this season, both best in football. That unit also led the NFL in takeaways. On Sunday, the Seahawks forced three turnovers in the fourth quarter alone, including a victory-sealing interception by linebacker Malcolm Smith after Sherman stretched his left hand to tip Colin Kaepernick's

pass away from receiver Michael Crabtree in the end zone.

Seattle's only other trip to the big game ended with a loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2006. Denver will be playing in its seventh Super Bowl and eyeing a third title, to go with those from 1998 and 1999.

Manning can match his younger brother Eli with a second Super Bowl crown. Eli, a spectator on Sunday in Denver, won two trophies with the New York Giants, whose stadium hosts this year's game.

In addition to Wilson, other members of the Seahawks getting the chance to introduce themselves to a wide audience include rugged running back Marshawn Lynch — some fans



Denver Broncos running back Knowshon Moreno (27) leaps over New England Patriots strong safety Duron Harmon (30) during the first half of the AFC Championship NFL playoff football game in Denver, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

tossed packs of his favorite candy, Skittles, onto the field after a 40-yard TD run in the third quarter — and

coach Pete Carroll, a rah-rah sort who was a title-winning college coach at Southern California.

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NBA Capsules**Continued from Front**

Frye, who missed all of last season for treatment of an enlarged heart, made 12 of 16 shots, 5 of 7 3-pointers, to fall three points shy of his career high.

Markieff Morris scored 16 and Goran Dragic 15 for the Suns, who never trailed and improved to 3-0 against Denver this season with one game to play.

Anthony Randolph scored a season-best 19 for the Nuggets, who have lost four of five and were without guard Randy Foye because of a stomach virus. Evan Fournier, Ty Lawson and Wilson Chandler added 17 points apiece for Denver.

THUNDER 108, KINGS 93
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 30 points to lead Oklahoma City past Sacramento.



San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, left, of Argentina, passes the ball over Milwaukee Bucks' Khris Middleton (22) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 110-82. Associated Press

Durant, coming off a career-high 54 points Friday against Golden State, shot 10 for 15 from the field and had nine assists. He scored at least 30 points for the seventh straight game.

Serge Ibaka added 20 points and Reggie Jackson had 16 for the Thunder, who won their third

straight.

Isaiah Thomas scored a career-high 38 points for the Kings, but he slowed in the second half as the Thunder pulled away. DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and 14 rebounds for Sacramento. Rudy Gay scored just six points for the Kings and was ejected after picking

up two technical fouls in the fourth quarter.

LAKERS 112, RAPTORS 106
TORONTO (AP) — Nick Young returned from suspension to score 29 points and Pau Gasol had 22 as Los Angeles beat Toronto for just its third win in 15 games.

Young scored 14 points in the fourth quarter as the Lakers overcame a 19-point first-half deficit. They won back-to-back games for the first time since beating Memphis on Dec. 17 and Minnesota on Dec. 20.

Ryan Kelly scored 17 in his first career start and Kendall Marshall had 10 points and 11 assists. The Lakers are 16-25 at the season's midpoint.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points, Kyle Lowry had 21 and Patrick Patterson 17 for Toronto, which had won six straight at home.

SPURS 110, BUCKS 82

SAN ANTONIO (AP) —

Patty Mills had 20 points

and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 13 rebounds in limited action as San Antonio kept Milwaukee winless in the new year. Marco Belinelli scored 14 points, Jeff Ayres and Nando De Colo had 13 points apiece, and Kawhi Leonard added 11 points in 21 minutes for San Antonio.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 11 points and John Henson had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, which has lost nine straight.

San Antonio was without starters Tony Parker and Tiago Splitter, former starter Danny Green and 3-point specialist Matt Bonner.

In other NBA games L.A. Lakers 112, Toronto 106; Orlando 93, Boston 91; Oklahoma City 108, Sacramento 93; San Antonio 110, Milwaukee 82; and Phoenix 117, Denver 103.□

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NHL Capsules

Kane scores in SO as Blackhawks top Bruins 3-2

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Kane scored in a shootout to lift the Chicago Blackhawks to a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Sunday in a rematch of last season's Stanley Cup finals. Jonathan Toews beat Tuukka Rask on the stick side to give the Blackhawks the lead in the tiebreaker, but Brad Marchand's quick wrist shot got by Corey Crawford, tying it up for the Bruins.

Kane, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy last year as playoff MVP, then skated toward the net, slowed up for a second and sent a shot past Rask on the stick side to give Chicago the win. The Blackhawks had lost their past seven games that had gone past regulation.

Marian Hossa and Brandon Bollig scored in regulation for Chicago, which beat Boston in six games to win



Chicago Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford (50) blocks a shot by Boston Bruins' Milan Lucic (17) during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Chicago, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014. The Blackhawks won 3-2. Associated Press

the title last June.

LIGHTNING 5, HURRICANES

3

RALEIGH, North Caro-

Sedin's ironman streak ending at 679 games

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Henrik Sedin's NHL ironman streak is ending at 679 games. He last missed a game 10 seasons ago.

Canucks assistant coach Mike Sullivan said Monday the Vancouver captain will not play at Edmonton on Tuesday because of an undisclosed injury. He is listed as day to day.

Sedin has the second-highest total for consecutive games among active players. St. Louis Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester takes a streak of 682 straight appearances into Monday night's game



Vancouver Canucks center Henrik Sedin (33) fights for control of the puck with St. Louis Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester (19) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Associated Press

at Detroit. Sedin left after the second period of Saturday's brawl-marred

game against the Calgary Flames that the Canucks won 3-2 in a shootout. □

lina (AP) — Mark Barberio scored his first two career goals as Tampa Bay moved into a share of first place in the Atlantic Division.

Ondrej Palat had a goal and two assists, and he and Barberio scored 1:23 apart during the Lightning's three-goal first period that also included a goal from Nikita Kucherov. Teddy Purcell also scored for the Lightning, who pulled even with Boston atop the division with 62 points.

Ben Bishop made a career-high 48 saves for Tampa Bay. He shut out the Hurricanes in his only other two appearances in Raleigh, including a 3-0 victory on Nov. 1.

Alexander Semin, Eric Staal and Ron Hainsey each scored after Carolina fell behind 4-0. RANGERS 4, CAPITALS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Nash scored two of New York's three first-period goals as goalie Henrik Lundqvist won for the fifth time in six outings.

The Rangers' offense broke out for the second straight day, following a 1-0 win over Detroit on Thursday, and recorded four goals for the third time in five games. Lundqvist, who got the day off when New York won 4-1 at Ottawa on Saturday, was sharp again in making 24 saves.

New York, 11-3-1 in its last 15 games, improved to 12-11-3 at home. Washington dropped its fifth straight (0-3-2).

Derek Stepan also scored in the first to chase goalie Philipp Grubauer. Ryan Callahan added a short-handed goal in the second.

Alex Ovechkin netted the only goal for Washington. □

They're going: Jamaica heading to the Sochi Games

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Get ready, Sochi: The Jamaicans are coming, and they're bringing their bobsled again.

Jamaican bobsled pilot Winston Watts and the nation's Olympic Committee said Monday they are accepting an invitation to compete in next month's Sochi Olympics.

It's the first time the Jamaican bobsled team will compete in the games since 2002. The invitation comes after Watts accumulated enough points in lower-tier races in North America to qualify.

"Oh, man, it's really

overwhelming," Watts said in a telephone interview Monday. "I'm really happy. I have the whole entire world behind us. The Jamaica bobsled team is very popular, but when I see and hear that the whole entire world, even the Middle East — I mean, really, there's a place in the Middle East that calls me and I don't even know its name — we have fans from so far away. For a little tiny island, it's so emotional." Watts said in an earlier interview Saturday with The Associated Press that the team had qualified, but was unsure about its ability to participate because of funding. He es-

timated he needed up to \$80,000 to make the Olympic trip.

Much of that concern went away Monday, when Jamaican Olympic officials said they and the Sochi Organizing Committee would cover all travel costs for the team. Watts said he is still doing additional fundraising for equipment, such as different kinds of runners for the sled. Teams typically have several different sets of runners to choose from, depending on ice conditions.

"The money's not all covered yet," Watts said. "We're still hoping for help. But I am very

excited that we're officially qualified."

It's been 12 years since Jamaica has had a sled in the Olympics, with Watts finishing 28th at the Salt Lake City Games with Lascelles Brown — now a key part of Canada's national team. Brown won a medal with the Canadians at the 2010 Vancouver Games, one where the Jamaicans were hoping to compete but were again thwarted by funding issues.

Watts himself spent nearly a decade in retirement, no longer able to self-fund much of the team's operations. But the chance to race in

Sochi brought him back.

"Once again, the pride of the country is with our athletes who continue to blaze the trail," the Jamaican Olympic Committee said in a statement. Officially, five people were nominated to the team Monday: Watts, brakeman Marvin Dixon, backup Wayne Blackwood, coach Thomas Samuel and Chris Stokes, who will serve as the mission chief. Stokes was part of the groundbreaking team that represented Jamaica in bobsled at the 1988 Calgary Games. He returned to the Olympics in 1992, 1994 and 1998. □

AUSTRALIA

Continued from Front

"That's what I like. I like playing the best ... and you need to take it to them."

Federer certainly did that against Tsonga, barely dropping a point on serve in the first set and putting the 2008 Australian Open finalist under pressure right away with an early break. The 32-year-old Swiss star was so relentless that Tsonga, aggravated at not being able to threaten Federer at all, screamed and smacked a ball into the crowd after losing an exchange of close volleys.

From Tsonga's side, it looked like he was facing the Federer of old — before the crisis of confidence, the new racket, and before his record streak of reaching the quarterfinals at 36 consecutive majors came to a halt with a shocking second-round defeat at Wimbledon. "No, I was not surprised because, you know, when you play Roger, you expect him at this level," Tsonga said. "You know he's able to play like this, so you always expect it."

Since winning his last Australian title in 2010, Federer has lost in the semifinals each year at Melbourne Park — including last year's defeat to Murray, who has



an 11-9 edge in head-to-heads. "It's good to see he took care of his draw, and here we are again," Federer said. "I'm looking forward to the match, I must say. We had an interesting year last year with some ups and downs. It's a good start to the season for both of us already."

Murray had minor back surgery in September and

is keeping his expectations in check in only his second tournament since.

"I said at the start of the tournament, I can't honestly say my expectations are as high as if I'd been playing for the last four months," Murray said. "But I'm not far away from winning the event. Anyone's that's in the quarters is close." Azarenka became

a big favorite to win a third consecutive Australian title when Sharapova, returning from a long layoff with a right shoulder injury, lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Cibulkova in the first match of the day. Cibulkova completed a set of major quarterfinals with her best run in Australia and will next meet No. 11 Simona Halep.

Azarenka played the sec-

ond match on Rod Laver Arena and extended her winning streak at Melbourne Park to 18 with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 13-seeded Sloane Stephens, whom she also beat in a contentious semifinal last year. She will next play No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska, who finished off day eight with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Garbine Muguruza. □

Vietnam's 'cyber troops' take fight to U.S., France

CHRIS BRUMMITT

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) —

Working on her blog in California one day, Vietnamese democracy activist Ngoc Thu sensed something was wrong. It took a moment for a keystroke to register. Cut-and-paste wasn't working. She had "a feeling that somebody was there" inside her computer. Her hunch turned out to be right.

A few days later, her personal emails and photos were displayed on the blog, along with defamatory messages. She couldn't delete them; she was blocked out of her own site for several days as her attackers kept posting private details.

"They hurt me and my family. They humiliated us, so that we don't do the blog anymore," said Thu, who is a U.S. citizen. She has resumed blogging, but now the Vietnamese government is blocking her posts. Activists and analysts strongly suspect Hanoi was involved in that attack and scores of others like it.

They say a shadowy, pro-government cyber army is blocking, hacking and spying on Vietnamese activists around the world to hamper the country's pro-democracy movement.

IT experts who investigated last year's attack on Thu said the hackers secretly took control of her system after she clicked on a malicious link sent to her in an email. By installing key-logging software, the hackers were able to harvest passwords, gaining access to her private accounts.

Subsequent investigation also found that an upgraded version of the malicious software, sent by the same group, was emailed to at least three other people: a British reporter for the Associated Press reporter based in Hanoi; a France-based Vietnamese math professor and democracy activist; and an American member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an online activist group, living in the United States. None of the three clicked the link.

It appears to be the first documented case of non-Vietnamese being attacked by a pro-govern-



In this May 14, 2013 file photo, a Vietnamese man uses a 3G device to get online at a cafe in Hanoi, Vietnam. Vietnamese pro-democracy activists and bloggers are battling a gathering campaign of blocking, hacking and spying by a shadowy pro-government army of cyber warriors.

Associated Press

ment hacking squad that had already conducted attacks well beyond the borders of this Southeast Asian nation. Its actions would appear to violate the law in the United States at least.

"You see campaigns being waged against Vietnamese voices of dissent in geographically disparate regions. Now we have seen an escalation against people who report on those voices," said Morgan Marquis-Boire, a University of Toronto researcher and online privacy activist who dissected the malware and published the findings with the EFF. "It's unlikely that this is the work of an opportunist individual."

Suspicion of state involvement is based in part on the fact that attackers have spent tens of thousands of dollars hiring servers around the world from which to launch attacks, often changing them after a few days. This is because the attackers know activists will ask service providers to take them down, said Dieu Hoang, an Australian computer engineer who, along with several other activists, works to help defend the Vietnamese activists online.

Attempts to monitor and harass dissidents online mirror the government's efforts to suppress them on the ground, where activists report persistent and oc-

casionally violent harassment by state agents. The state convicted at least 63 bloggers and other nonviolent democracy activists in 2013 of criminal offenses, according to Human Rights Watch.

Vietnam is by no means unique in seeking to spy on electronic communications, as recent revelations about the actions of the National Security Agency in the United States dem-

is willing to cooperate with other countries in fighting high-tech crimes in general and Internet crimes in particular."

Suppressing online dissent in Vietnam is becoming more difficult because of soaring Internet usage. Close to 40 percent of the country's 90 million people have Internet access, and because Vietnam has been less effective than China in restricting that



In this May 14, 2013 photo, three young Vietnamese women use a laptop and smart phones to go online at a cafe in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Associated Press

onstrate. But its activities are of special concern because of its human rights record in general.

Asked to comment on suspicions of state involvement in targeted surveillance, as well as the attack on the AP reporter, the Vietnamese government gave this brief statement: "Vietnam shares the attention of other countries in ensuring Internet security and

access, many people are viewing uncensored news.

Dissidents can network and publicize their activities — and acts of state repression — with comparative ease. Security researchers have found hints of how Hanoi may be dealing with the challenge.

In 2010, Google and McAfee alleged that that malicious software had been used to spy on tens of

thousands of Vietnamese web users. McAfee said the perpetrators of the attacks "may have some allegiance" to the country's government. Last year, researchers led by Marquis-Boire, who also works for Google as a security engineer, uncovered evidence suggesting a spyware suite called FinFisher was being used to track activists' mobile communications inside Vietnam.

The government, through state media, has admitted to blocking thousands of "bad, poisonous web sites and blogs," and its sites have come under attack, presumably from dissident sympathizers. Ho Quang Loi, propaganda chief of Hanoi's Communist Party, said last year it employed 900 people to counter online criticism.

The attack on Thu's blog showed how hacking and blocking can work as a one-two punch to knock out criticism.

The blog, named "Ba Sam," is one of the best-known dissident publications. It carries news, views, videos and photos from and about Vietnam of the kind that state media would never touch. After the blog was hacked, it took Thu a week to regain control, move it to a new address and put it back online.

Within weeks, authorities in Vietnam began blocking it to web users inside the country. To view it now, people inside Vietnam have to use a proxy server, a relatively common technique for censorship evasion but one that requires some knowhow. This means fewer people are seeing it. Thu said her page views are down significantly, and that she shut down her popular comments sections because of an organized campaign of abuse and spamming.

"It became too much trouble," she said. "They sent me threatening messages saying, 'I'm going to visit you in California.'"

Hacking a site and blocking it later is a known tactic, said Hoang, the Australian.

"Defacing and defaming is done by a hidden force unofficially," he said. "Blocking is done by the official force." □

World stocks lackluster as China growth slows

EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — World markets were lackluster Monday amid concerns about slowing economic growth in China and more poor earnings from banks. Wall Street was closed for a holiday.

Official figures on showed China's economy grew 7.7 percent in the quarter through December, down from 7.8 percent the previous quarter. For the full year, the economy expanded 7.7 percent, tying 2012 for the weakest performance since the 1990s.

China's growth is far stronger than the United States, Japan or Europe. But an un-

expectedly abrupt decline from the double digit rates of the previous decade has complicated the ruling Communist Party's plans to promote more sustainable growth based on domestic consumption and reduce reliance on trade and investment.

"The 'boom' is ending, but sustained demand is just as important," said Evan Lucas, market strategist with IG in Melbourne, Australia. Britain's FTSE 100 closed 0.1 percent higher at 6,836.73 while France's CAC 40 shed 0.1 percent to 4,322.86.

Germany's DAX dropped 0.3 percent to 9,715.90, led by a 5.4 percent fall in Deutsche Bank, which said

it would book an unexpected loss in the fourth quarter. The report caused shares in financial companies across Europe to underperform the wider market. It follows weaker earnings at major U.S. banks such as Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs.

Trading on Wall Street remained closed for Martin Luther King Day.

Earlier, in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 sank 0.6 percent to 15,641.68 and China's Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.7 percent to 1,991.25 after news of the Chinese growth slowdown. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.9 percent to 22,928.95. Australia's S&P/

ASX 200 was down 0.2 percent at 5,295.

Analysts said the U.S. corporate reporting season will be in focus when Wall Street reopens Tuesday after some disappointing earnings so far. Markets will also be cautious ahead of the Federal Reserve's next meeting on Jan 29.

In other markets, benchmark crude for February delivery was down 28 cents at \$93.68 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 41 cents on Friday.

The euro rose 0.2 percent to \$1.3558 while the dollar fell 0.1 percent against the Japanese yen, to 104.14



People walk past an electronic stock indicator in Tokyo. World markets were lackluster Monday amid concerns about slowing economic growth in China and more poor earnings from banks. Wall Street was closed for a holiday.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Peugeot Citroen close to Chinese investment deal

PARIS (AP) — Out with General Motors Co., in with China's No. 2 automaker: PSA Peugeot Citroen is moving closer to a partnership with Dongfeng Motor.

Spokeswoman Antonia Krpina at the capital-hungry French automaker said Monday its supervisory board has reached "cohesion" in talks announced last month involving Dong-

feng. She declined further comment, saying no deal has been signed yet.

In a statement later, Peugeot Citroen said negotiations are ongoing and it expects to make an announcement next month at its annual earnings presentation.

Peugeot Citroen said its "privileged scenario" foresees a capital increase of

around 3 billion euros (\$4.1 billion). The deal also could see the French government take a matching stake in the company alongside Dongfeng.

Last month, Detroit giant GM said it had decided to unload its 7 percent stake in the struggling French company, without disclosing a price, while maintaining their alliance.

Many acquisitions and corporate partnerships abroad by Chinese companies aim to improve their competitive edge in their fast-growing home market. A Peugeot tie-up would give Dongfeng access to a well-known brand and advanced technology to help expand its share of the world's biggest auto market.

Deutsche Bank discloses bigger than expected quarterly losses

JACK EWING

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FRANKFURT, Germany — Deutsche Bank, which has the largest investment banking operation in Europe, disclosed a bigger than expected quarterly loss and warned of a difficult year ahead, underlining how European banks continue to struggle more than five years after the start of the global financial crisis.

The 965 million euro (\$1.3 billion) net loss at Deutsche Bank in the fourth quarter of 2013 came after a decline in bond trading that helped push down revenue by 16 percent to 6.6 billion euros. The bank also booked additional losses from lawsuits and official probes related to alleged misconduct in years past. Deutsche Bank, based in Frankfurt, is one of the few European banks able to compete with U.S. giants like JPMorgan Chase or Goldman Sachs in investment banking. But the loss reported Sunday showed how much more difficult it has been for European banks to keep pace with U.S. rivals that have had sharp increases in profit.

Anshu Jain, co-chief executive of Deutsche Bank, acknowledged in a conference call with analysts Monday that the bank's greater exposure to Europe, with its barely growing economy, had been a problem.

The bank is also struggling with tougher regulations, which have forced it to unload riskier assets and contributed to the drop in revenue. "The trends of 2013 will likely continue," Jain said.

"We don't see a materially better revenue picture at this point."

However, Jain insisted that the company had made progress cutting costs, for example by simplifying its information technology systems, and that the stage is set for a turnaround in 2015.

Retailers reflect in an Amazon era

Susan Thurston,
© 2012 Tampa Bay Times

If retailers want to prosper, and they can't match Amazon on price, survival may come down to this: People are lonely. More than ever, shoppers crave human interaction in a way that technology can't provide. Sure, after a day of working remotely, you can sit on your couch and buy every item in every color, but was the experience memorable? Did it meet your primal need to congregate with others?

Forget that basic need and you forget a key advantage brick-and-mortar have over online retailers, said developer Rick Caruso, during the National Retail Federation's annual convention last week.

Caruso, the founder and chief executive officer of Caruso Affiliated, one of the largest privately held U.S. real estate companies, caused some squirming among retailers when he said the typical U.S. mall has outlived its usefulness.

Most are dull and boring, and without a major reinvention will be considered a thing of the past in the next 10 to 15 years. What retailers should be

doing, he said, is what cavemen were doing at the beginning of time: Inviting people to their cave to sit by their fire. (And, more recently, it's what Starbucks does when it invites you in for free Wi-Fi with your venti skinny vanilla latte.)

Caruso pointed to his hugely successful open-air shopping center in Los Angeles. The Grove attracts 18 million visitors a year up there with Disney's Magic Kingdom and is listed among the top 15 shopping centers worldwide based on its sales per square foot. Rather than stay home and shop online, its customers come for the atmosphere and experience. They ride the trolley through the property or watch events in the park. The parking garage has a sparkling \$5 million lobby with concierge, and bathroom attendants hand you towels. At least one guy has proposed at the big fountain.

Caruso, who considered running for L.A. mayor last year, said the best shopping centers are designed around enjoyment, not shopping. Make people happy, and they will spend, spend, spend.

"When you create a compelling retail experience, not only does your market share grow, but more importantly your heart share grows and that is known as customer loyalty," he said.

Caruso set the tone for the NRF conference held Jan. 12-15 at New York City's Jacob K. Javitz Convention Center. Dubbed the "BIG Show," the convention attracted 30,000 retail executives and vendors selling everything from digital wallet systems to shopping bags. "The elephant in the room is that Amazon doesn't need to make a profit, where most retailers do," he said, alluding to the fact that Amazon did \$61 billion in sales in 2012 but had \$40 million in losses.

Best Buy is a timely example. A day after the convention ended, Best Buy announced intense pricing competition over the holidays cut into its revenue, sending the stock price plummeting more than 27 percent. The message: To win in the new retail reality, it takes more than price. Ken Hicks, president and chief executive officer of Foot Locker, told conventioneers that brick-and-mortar chains need to capitalize on their strengths, chiefly that every store is a distribution center capable of receiving, processing and shipping inventory.

Continued on Page 27



Overstock.com plans to accept Bitcoins

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Salt Lake City-based Overstock.com says it's the first major retailer to accept digital Bitcoins as payment for goods.

The \$1 billion company is tapping into a new market of buyers who use the online currency, and other major retailers will lose market share if they don't follow suit and accept Bitcoins, Overstock CEO Pat-

Unlike government-issued money, the value of Bitcoin fluctuates rapidly. To protect itself, Overstock uses a Bitcoin broker that immediately transfers the digital coin into dollars. Overstock started accepting the virtual currency Jan. 9, and Byrne said the company almost immediately grossed \$100,000 in Bitcoin orders. "You'll see Amazon jump

are created, distributed, and authenticated independently of any bank or government.

The currency's cryptographic features make it virtually immune from counterfeiting, and its relative anonymity holds out the promise of being able to spend money across the Internet without fear of governments.

The linchpin of the system



This photo shows bitcoin tokens at 35-year-old software engineer Mike Caldwell's shop in Sandy, Utah. Salt Lake City-based Overstock.com says it's the first major retailer to accept digital Bitcoins as payment for goods.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

rick Byrne said.

"I've been hearing from people all over the world — cult followers of Bitcoin — who say they are going to shift all of their shopping to Overstock.com," Byrne told CBS affiliate KUTV in Salt Lake City.

Bitcoin users buy digital money and load it onto a virtual wallet. They can buy things online without having to enter their credit-card information.

on board. You'll see other large companies — they have to because they cannot concede this whole section of the market to us," Byrne said.

The cyber currency has existed for years as a kind of Internet oddity, counting supporters among tech-savvy libertarians, currency geeks and online speculators. Yet increasing acceptance is bringing it into mainstream use. Bitcoins

is a network of "miners" — high-end computer users who supply the Bitcoin network with the processing power needed to maintain a transparent, running tally of all transactions. The tally is one of the most important ways in which the system prevents fraud, and the miners are rewarded for supporting the system with an occasional helping of brand-new bitcoins. □

AB InBev to repurchase South Korean brewer

CHAD BRAY
© 2014 New York Times

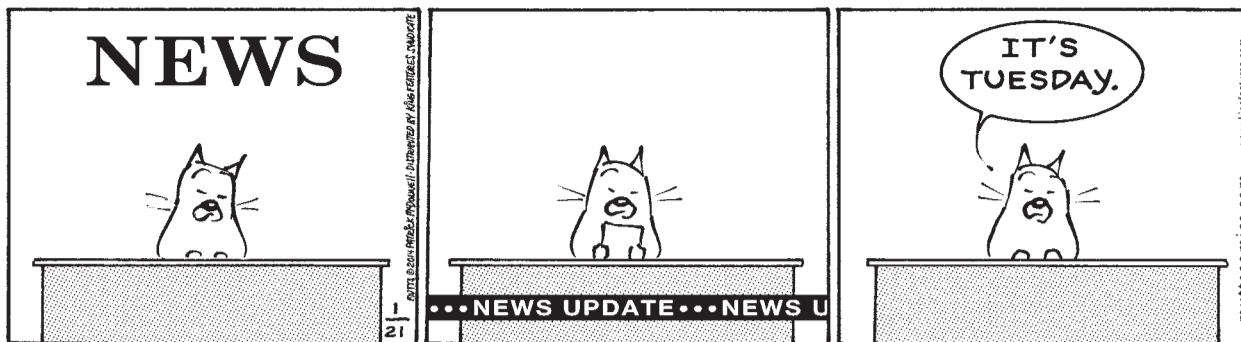
LONDON — Anheuser-Busch InBev said Monday that it would repurchase Oriental Brewery in a deal valued at \$5.8 billion nearly five years after it sold the South Korean brewer to private equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. The deal expands Anheuser-Busch InBev's international footprint and signals its return to the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region, a market it largely abandoned

after the Oriental Brewery sale in July 2009. The brewery was sold to KKR for \$1.8 billion in cash and debt as Anheuser-Busch InBev engaged in a series of asset sales to reduce its debt following a 2008 merger that created the world's largest beer maker. Soon after the purchase, KKR sold half of the company to Affinity Equity Partners, a buyout firm specializing in investments in the Asia-Pacific region. The deal comes just a week after Suntory of Japan

agreed to pay \$13.6 billion to buy Beam Inc., the maker of Jim Beam and Maker's Mark whiskeys. Oriental Brewery "will strengthen our position in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region and will become a significant contributor to our Asia-Pacific zone," Carlos Alves Brito, the Anheuser-Busch InBev chief executive, said.

Anheuser-Busch InBev had an option under the terms of the original sale to reacquire Oriental Brewery by July 2014. □

Mutts

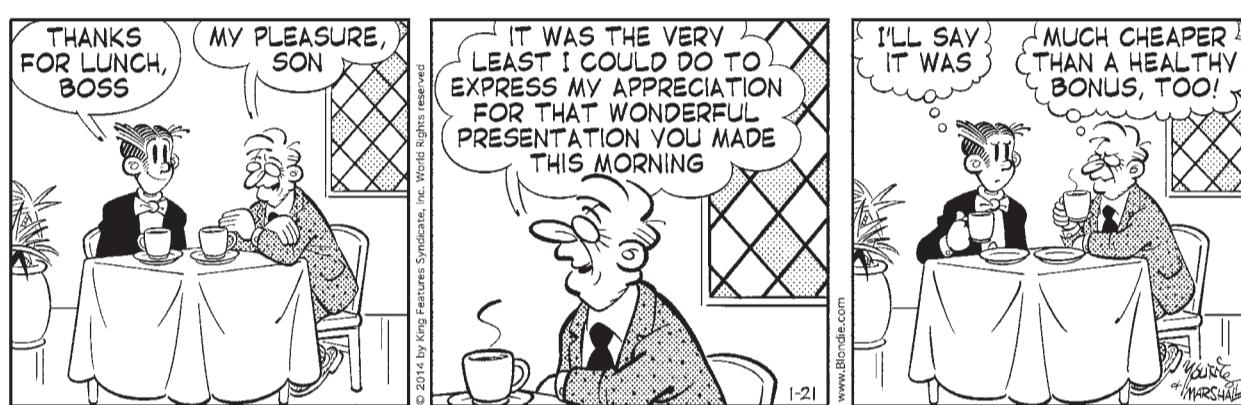


6 Chix



HOW TO KILL
THE JOY
OF ART
FOREVER

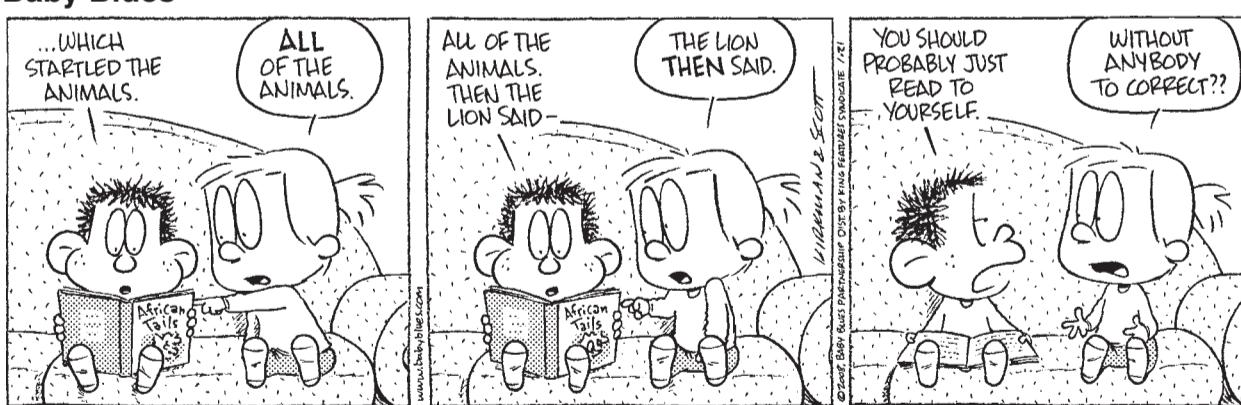
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9	4	7		2
6	7	3	4	9
		6	3	8
2		4	3	9
	1	5		8
5	3	2	1	9
	9			
4		8	7	6

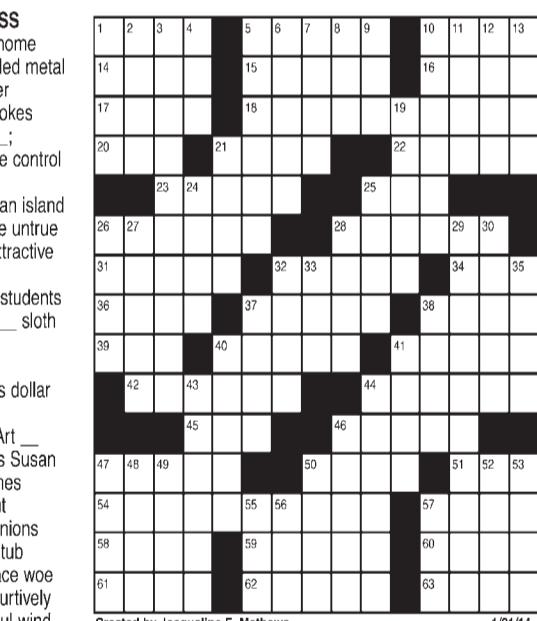
Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	7	1	5	2	4	6	9	8
2	8	9	6	3	1	4	5	7
5	6	4	7	8	9	1	2	3
1	9	8	2	7	6	3	4	5
4	2	3	9	5	8	7	1	6
6	5	7	4	1	3	9	8	2
8	3	2	1	4	7	5	6	9
7	1	6	8	9	5	2	3	4
9	4	5	3	6	2	8	7	1

Yesterday's puzzle answer



ACROSS

- 1 Bird's home
- 5 Threaded metal fastener
- 10 Make jokes
- 14 Take __; assume control
- 15 Task
- 16 Hawaiian island
- 17 Declare untrue
- 18 Very attractive man
- 20 4th-yr. students
- 21 Three-__ sloth
- 22 Stops
- 23 Hate
- 25 Japan's dollar
- 26 Real
- 28 Actor Art __
- 31 Actress Susan __ James
- 32 Without companions
- 34 Dyer's tub
- 36 Shoelace woe
- 37 Move furtively
- 38 Powerful wind
- 39 Male child
- 40 Iron alloy
- 41 Tiny nation south of Sicily
- 42 Shun
- 44 Informal
- 45 Distance across the pool
- 46 Caffe __; order at Starbucks
- 47 __ up; got on one's feet
- 50 Conceal
- 51 Facial twitch
- 54 Unable to be out and about
- 55 Go skyward
- 58 Shaping tool
- 59 Heavenly guardian
- 60 Flock of sheep
- 61 Frame of mind
- 62 Waterbirds
- 63 Leg joint

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1-21/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M	E	S		B	O	A	R		M	A	N	E
A	L	A	M	O		O	N	T	O		O	D	O	R
D	E	T	E	R		I	C	E			L	A	I	R
E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E				E	A	P	S
G	N	E												
A	L	B	E	R		T	E	S						
R	U	E	Y	E	M	E								
C	A	R	S											
H	U	N	C											
R	E	V	A	M	P	S								
L	E	V	A	M	P	S								

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- 4 Attempt
- 5 Word with high or elementary
- 6 __ up; become happy again
- 7 Highway
- 8 Go wrong
- 9 Moist
- 10 __ Sebastian Bach
- 11 British noble
- 12 Injection
- 13 Bathers' places
- 19 __ is a Tavern in the Town
- 21 __ does it!; cry of disgust
- 24 Tap a baseball
- 25 Pull hard
- 26 Invites
- 27 Narrow boat
- 28 Fuel, for some
- 29 Assessment
- 30 __ Conference; WWII meeting for FDR et al.
- 32 Afresh
- 33 Mr. Iacocca
- 37 Ladder rung
- 38 Deep wide cut
- 40 Window cover
- 41 Cop's spray
- 43 Store window sign, at night
- 44 Pamper
- 46 Digs for ore
- 47 Farce; pretense
- 48 Hubbub
- 49 Greek liqueur
- 50 Enormous
- 52 __ of Wight
- 53 Relinquish
- 55 Grocery sack
- 56 Afternoon hour
- 57 JFK's attorney general

Amazon era

Continued from Page 25

"We have 3,500 warehouses," he said, noting that Amazon wouldn't be building so many fulfillment centers including one headed to Hillsborough County unless shortening the time it takes for products to reach customers wasn't a priority. This year, more retailers will start pushing free shipping to stores and in-store pickup to lower delivery costs and improve customer service, said Sucharita Mulpu, an analyst at Forrester Research. Shoppers have grown accustomed to free shipping but at a great cost to retailers, which must absorb the cost.

"Shipping is the Achilles' heel of e-commerce," she said. Just look at what happened this holiday season, she said. Amazon and other retailers who promised last-minute orders in time for Christmas got into major trouble when United Parcel Service and FedEx weren't able to handle the rush. When all was said and done, customers directed their anger not at the shipping companies, but at the retailers. □

FOR SALE

1 Br La Cabana

wk 7 Rm 427 C
Thursday start \$4900 and
wk 7 Tropicana 1 Br Unit 5532
Friday start \$2950
E-mail: rmwjmw@aol.com
Local: 565-9394
Phone: 508-651-0016

202103

FOR SALE

Caribbean Palm Village
(deeded)

E 107 first floor pool side
(renovated)
week 1 thru 5
1 bedroom 2 bath \$10.000
p/week
e-mail: np7300@roadrunner.com
phone: USA 440-428-4631

202104

FOR SALE -RENT

Timeshare Sale-Rent

Paradise Villas

Wk 2 Studio Jan 12 Rent \$660
Sale \$2600 also Divi Resort
Studios from 3/15 to 12/13 2014
\$3100 or Rent \$665,
one Br \$3400 or Rent \$765
E-mail: rmwjmw@aol.com
Local: 565-9394
Phone: 508-651-0016

200579

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

Rm. 1111, Presidential Suite
wks. 1&2 - \$15,000 per wk.
Rm. 1117 Presidential Suit
wks 3&4-\$15,000 wk.
contact (Aruba) 560-1288
until 1/31/14
(USA) 203-483-5700
E-mail: costelli@snet.net

201097

Marriott Aruba
Surf Club

Platinum Season
Oceanview \$16000
Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27500
3 BEDRM \$27000
Plat Plus Holiday 51
OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k
GOLD Season
OS \$10k OV \$9500
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

Marriott Aruba
Ocean Club

Platinum 2B OV \$18k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$11,500
Gold season 2B OV \$9,000
Oceanfront 2B \$14,500
1B Oceanfront \$8,500

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202119

RED/WEEK

Resales

Occidental Grand
Studio wk 2/17 \$10K
Jr Suite wk 2/17 \$14K
1 Br dlx Wk 2/17 \$16K
2 Br O. front wk 2/17 \$30K
3 Br O. front Wk 2/17 \$40K
All of the above are non
mandatory all inclusive
optional all inclusive ocean
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Marriott Surf Club
2x2Br Platinum O.V. \$16K
3X2 Br Garden view \$15K
Marriott Ocean Club
1Br Platinum O.V. \$11,5K
2Br Platinum O.F. \$29K
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Casa del Mar
2Br 2 bath wk 5 Room #2501
O.V. Price \$25K
La Cabana Beach Resort
Studio wk 4 and 5 Room
#241A O.V. \$18K both
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1Br 1 1/2 bath Room # 605
wk 2 O.V. 31 week remain on
the contract \$9000

Divi Links

1Br wk 4 Rm 2360 \$8000
Stu wk 4 Rm 2359 \$7000
Golf and O.V. top floor
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Paradise Beach Villas
1Br 1 wk 2 Room #322 O.V.
Price \$9500
1 Br wk 3 Room # 324 O.V.

Price \$9500
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Eagle Beach Front
Amsterdam Manor
all 52 weeks 2 br, 2 bath
Room # 213 \$450K
Free listing! Free inf.
28 years experience
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

FOR SALE

Condo in Gold Coast

Everything's included in this
2 Br 2 1/2 bath unit check it out
now at www.arubarental.info
or call 562-0735 free pick up

202110

FOR SALE

Timeshare For sale

**Renaissance Aruba Beach
Resort**
week # 2, Unit #2309
Pool and Ocean Views
(508) 224-7575 (USA)
e-mail: odomirok@msn.com

201066

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Tropicana Aruba-
Renovated Units

2 Bedroom Condo Unit 2544
Weeks 1,2,3,4 sun-sun
2 Bedroom Condo Unit 3544
Weeks 5,6,7sun-sun
3 Bedroom Condo Unit 3548
Week 8 sun-sun
Mini enhanced rooms
1 bedroom first floor unit 1570
weeks 7 & 8 fri-fri
2 bedroom first floor unit 1566
weeks 5 & 6 fri-fri
1 bedroom 5th floor unit 5562
week 17
Email: cljh@aol.com
Tel: 297-566-4608

201079

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Casa del Mar
wk 2 ocean front
Room 1224...25K
wk 3 ocean, pool view Room
1318...20K
e-mail: lemmesell@aol.com

201071

FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas

For Sale week 2 & 4
Week 2 \$6000 1 bedr
pool/ocean view
Week 4 \$8500 1 bdr
Call Room 207-after January 18
Call 920-788-2750

201098

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Casa del Mar
wk 3 Room 1511
\$20.000
e-mail: joansmo25@yahoo.com

201072

Timeshare FOR SALE

Casa del Mar
weeks 4 and 5
1508 sunset view
\$24,000 per week
e-mail: jbehlke@verizon.net

202108

DOCTOR
ON DUTY
Oranjestad

Dr. van Trigt

EMERGENCIA
911

POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Kibrahacha Tel: 582-2007
S. NICOLAS: San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Jan. 21
Costa Deliziosa

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

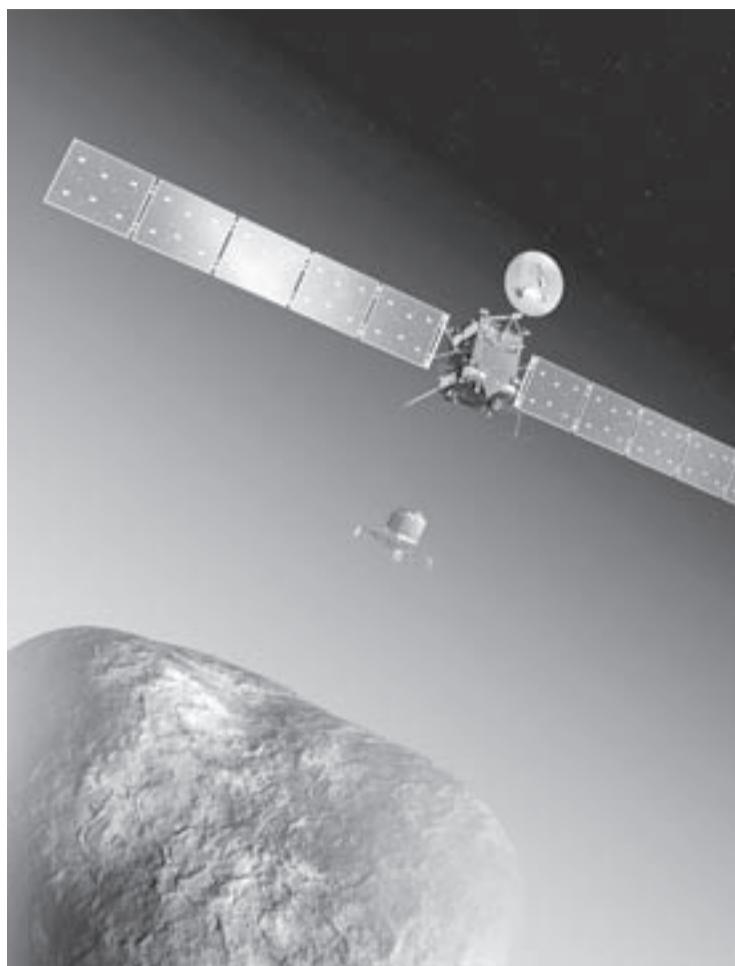
FOUNDATION
FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION Anti-Droga	Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999
FUNDACION Respetami	Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation	Arubano
Tel: 583-3808	

Narcotics Anonymous	Tel:
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This publicly provided image by the European Space Agency ESA shows an artist's impression of the Rosetta orbiter deploying the Philae lander to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The image is not to scale; the Rosetta spacecraft measures 32 m across including the solar arrays, while the comet nucleus is thought to be about 4 km wide.

Associated Press

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Waking up after almost three years of hibernation, a comet-chasing spacecraft sent its first signal back to Earth on Monday, prompting cheers from scientists who hope to use it to land the first space lander onto a comet.

The European Space Agency received the all-clear message from its Rosetta spacecraft at 7:18 p.m. (1818 GMT; 1:18 p.m. EST) — a message that had to travel some 800 million kilometers (500 million miles). In keeping with the agency's effort to turn the tense wait for a signal into a social media event, the probe triggered a series of "Hello World!" tweets in different languages.

Dormant systems on the unmanned spacecraft were switched back on in preparation for the final stage of its decade-long mission to rendezvous with the comet named 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Systems had been powered down in 2011 to conserve energy, leaving scientists in the dark about the probe's fate until now.

Because of the time it took Rosetta to wake up, and the long distance between the spacecraft and Earth, the earliest possible hour for a signal to arrive was 6:30 p.m.

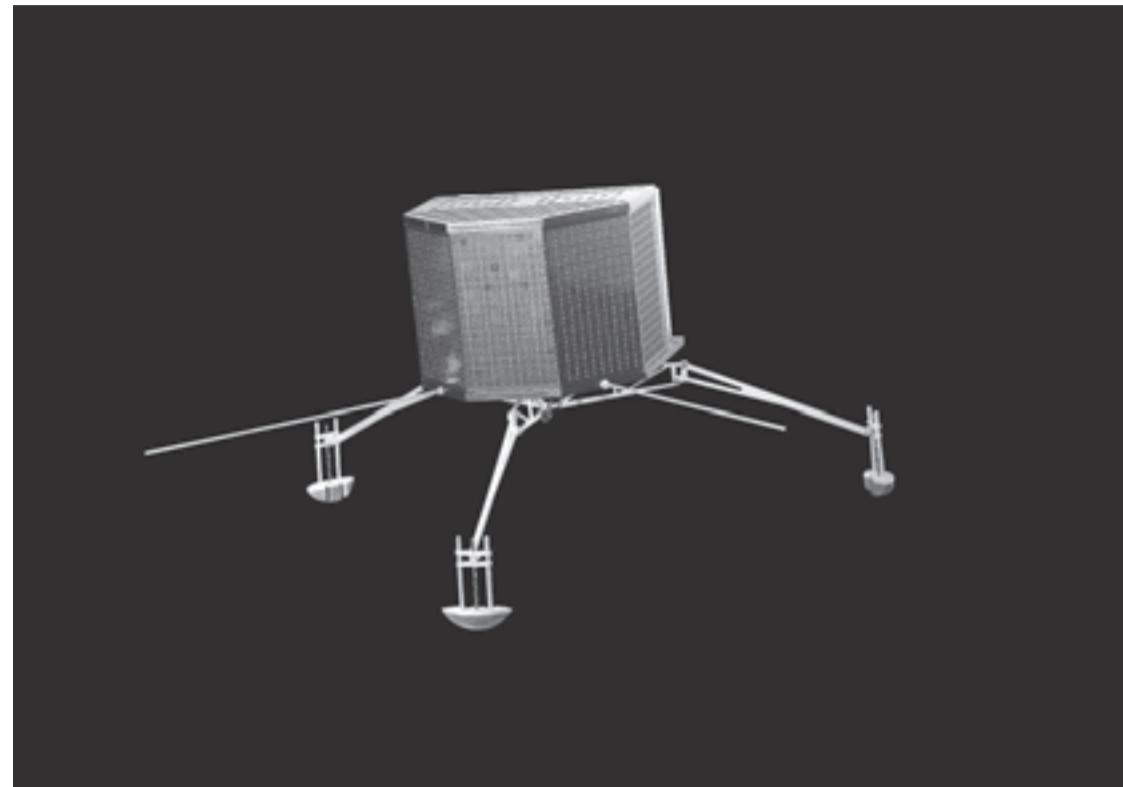
"I think it's been the longest hour of my life," said Andrea Accomazzo, the spacecraft's operations manager at ESA's mission control room in Darmstadt, Germany. "Now we have it back."

Scientists will now take control of Rosetta again, a procedure slowed by the 45 minutes it takes a signal to travel to or from the spacecraft, he said.

The wake-up call is one of the final milestones for Rosetta before it makes its rendezvous with comet 67P in the summer. The probe will then fly a series of complicated maneuvers to observe the comet — a lump of rock and ice about four kilometers (2.5 miles) in diameter — before dropping a lander called Philae onto its icy surface in November. The lander will dig up samples and analyze them with its instruments.

Although the spacecraft was launched almost a

Comet-chasing probe wakes up, signals Earth



This undated image provided by the European Space Agency ESA shows an artist's impression of the Philae lander. Scientists at the European Space Agency are expecting their comet-chasing probe Rosetta to wake from almost three years of hibernation at 11 a.m. Monday Jan. 20, 2014 (1000 GMT; 5 a.m. EST) and phone home to say all is well.

Associated Press

decade ago, the instruments aboard Rosetta and the Philae lander are still considered cutting edge, said Joel Parker of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado. The institute developed a specialized camera called ALICE that can detect different chemicals in the comet.

Rosetta is named after a block of stone that allowed archeologists to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Scientists hope the space mission will help them understand the composition of comets and thereby discover more about the origins and evolution of our solar system.

Comets are regarded as flying time capsules because they are essentially unchanged for the last 4.6 billion years. Scientists have speculated that comets may be responsible for the water found on some planets. And like asteroids, comets also pose a theoretical threat to life on Earth.

"Over the millennia, comets have actually affected our evolution," said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations at the European

Space Agency. "There are many theories about comets hitting the Earth and causing global catastrophes. So understanding comets is also important to see in the future what could be done to defend the Earth from comets."

The mission is different from

NASA's Deep Impact,

a spacecraft that fired a projectile into a comet in 2005

so scientists could study

the resulting plume of matter.

NASA also managed to

land a probe on an asteroid in 2001, but comets are much more volatile places because they constantly release dust and gas that can harm a spacecraft. NASA is planning another space rock mission between 2019 and 2021. The agency is looking into sending a robotic spaceship to lasso a small asteroid and haul it close to the moon, where spacewalking astronauts would explore it. □

South Africa: rhino toll topped 1,000 in 2013

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The South African government says the number of rhinos killed for their horns topped a record 1,000 in 2013, and that three dozen have been poached so far this year.

The department of environmental affairs said in a statement Friday that about 60 percent of the 1,004 rhinos killed last year were poached in Kruger National Park, South Africa's flagship game reserve. It says 668 rhinos were poached in 2012.

South African officials say 343 people were arrested for offenses related to rhino poaching in 2013, a 30 percent increase over the previous year.

Rhino horn is seen in parts of Asia as a status symbol and a healing agent. There is no evidence that rhino horn, made from the same material as fingernails, is an effective medicine. □



Jane Lynch poses at the NBC/Universal Winter 2014 TCA on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, in Pasadena, Calif. Associated Press

Jane Lynch returns to host 'Hollywood Game Night'

BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

PASADENA, California

(AP) — Jane Lynch says her hosting duties on "Hollywood Game Night" are an extension of the bashes she tosses at home.

The "Glee" star says she loves creating and hosting a space for her friends to have fun.

Lynch returns for the NBC show's second season on Monday night, with back-to-back episodes that include celebrities Rosie

O'Donnell, Alyssa Milano and Mario Lopez. Fifteen new games will be played, along with some holdovers from last season.

Sean Hayes ("Will and Grace") came up with the show's premise based on the game nights he hosts at home. He says celebs are now calling up the producers asking to be on the show, which features two contestants on teams with celebrities playing games for the chance to win \$25,000.□

NBC will do live remake of 'Peter Pan'

PASADENA, California (AP) — Following up on the success of "The Sound of Music" last month, NBC said Sunday that it will broadcast a live TV version of the musical "Peter Pan" in December.

It will be produced by the same team, Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, that made "The Sound of Music" with Carrie Underwood. The live musical reached 19 million viewers, surprising even NBC entertainment president Robert Greenblatt. No cast members were announced on Sunday. "I have some dream choices, but I don't want

to talk about it before approaching them," Greenblatt said.

"Peter Pan," which opened on Broadway in 1954, has a strong history with NBC. The network aired a live broadcast of the show from its own studios in 1955 with Tony Award-winner Mary Martin in the title role and most of the original Broadway cast, reaching 65 million viewers. That was a record for television at the time. NBC broadcast the show live again in 1956 and 1960, and it was the first broadcast of a musical on color TV.□

NBC renews 'Parks & Recreation' for 7th season

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The future is looking bright at NBC for Golden Globe winner Amy Poehler, not so much for Michael J. Fox. NBC entertainment president Robert Greenblatt said Sunday that Poehler's "Parks & Recreation" will be back for a seventh season next fall. Poehler, host of last week's Golden Globe ceremony, won a Globe for best comedy actress for her role as a small town bureaucrat.

NBC also signed a production deal with Poehler and committed to making a pilot for a comedy that she is writing, tentatively titled "Old Soul."

Greenblatt, at a news conference, couldn't hide his disappointment with the performance of Michael J. Fox's Thursday comedy - "The Michael J. Fox Show" - although he made no official comment about its prospects beyond this year.

With an average of just below 4 million viewers this season, those prospects can't be good. The Nielsen company said the episode that aired Jan. 9 was seen by 3.1 million viewers.

"We like that show, we like Sean Hayes' show, too," Greenblatt said. "We're really unhappy that we can't find an audience for them in those time periods."

Greenblatt said Fox's comedy, which mirrors the actor's own life with him portraying a television personality returning to work with Parkinson's Disease, may be moved around NBC's schedule to find a new home. "I don't know if that's going to do much," he said.

The entertainment executive would not comment on reports that NBC is interested

in bidding for a package of Thursday night NFL games. Once NBC's strength, Thursday has become a black hole in the network's schedule. Meanwhile, its Sunday night NFL games are huge ratings-grabbers.

"We love the NFL," Greenblatt said. "We'd love to have more NFL games."

Greenblatt said NBC has learned lessons



This image released by NBC shows Amy Poehler accepting the award for best actress in a comedy series for her role in "Parks and Recreation" during the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

from last winter, when the network followed up a promising fall with a disastrous ratings performance. Airing the Winter Olympics in February will obviously make this year different, but NBC is putting on more original programming when the games are not being broadcast - including "The Black List" this month and starting a new run of "The Voice" directly following the Olympics.

Following a trend also taking place at other networks, NBC said it has ordered two new miniseries.□

Hall won't rule out return to playing Dexter



In this file photo released by Showtime Michael C. Hall acts as Dexter. Associated Press

RYAN PEARSON
AP Entertainment Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Possible bad news for Oregon loggers: Michael C. Hall won't rule out a return to playing Dexter. But he'd want to see the finish line. Hall, promoting his movie

"Cold in July" at the Sundance Film Festival, said in an interview over the weekend that he agreed with Showtime executives who recently declared that any potential spin-off series would have to include Hall. "'Masuka!' I would watch

that," he joked, referring to the show's humorous forensics specialist Vince Masuka, played by C.S. Lee.

More seriously, Hall said of a possible spin-off series, "I can't even wrap my mind around that."

And it's all just theoretical until there is some sort of script reflecting somebody's idea of where it could possibly go. But it's hard for me to imagine what that would be."

Hall, 42, also won't rule out returning TV more generally. "Yeah, as far as playing Dexter again for an undefined amount of time, that's a little daunting to consider. But doing another television series — there's a lot of amazing stuff on TV. I don't want to do that right away. But I wouldn't say never to that."□

Branagh: From Shakespeare to 'Shadow Recruit'

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—

Kenneth Branagh's role as a director began with the story of a valiant king.

Leading the 1989 film version of Shakespeare's "Henry V" both in front of and behind the camera, Branagh went on to make five more Shakespeare adaptations. Turning plays into movies became his thing.

That was until his agent suggested he direct the 2011 blockbuster "Thor."

Moving from royalty to mythology, the hammer-wielding god was Branagh's first foray into Hollywood's big-budget domain. The success of "Thor," which earned nearly \$450 million worldwide, led to Branagh directing "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," the latest film version of author Tom Clancy's celebrated CIA series.

"Thor" was a risk for Marvel," recalls Branagh, sitting poolside on the roof of a Beverly Hills hotel. "Who knew that I could make a good job of it? I was out of my comfort zone. I was scared. Those movies have this whole other dimension to them like merchandizing and the cult following. But I needed to continue to feel like I had an audience."



In this Friday, Jan. 10, 2014 file photo, director and actor Kenneth Branagh poses for a portrait to promote "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Between 2005 and 2007, Branagh directed film adaptations of "As You Like It," "The Magic Flute" and "Sleuth." "And really nobody saw them," laments the 53-year-old. "It was frustrating. I'd put as much passion and commitment into those movies as any

other. But I felt it would be nice to make films that people actually watched." "Thor" fulfilled that desire. "The reason he does so well with these big-budget, explosive action-pictures is that he comes from theater and Shakespeare and high, rich drama," says

Chris Pine, who takes on the role of Jack Ryan in the new film. "He brings all of that plot-centric thinking to bare." But Branagh's love affair with big-budget films doesn't mean he's given up working on epic dramas. "Shakespeare and great myths never end and in a strange way there is also a classical element to Jack Ryan, since he's this paradox of this everyman who is brilliant," says Branagh. "Making a film is usually a two-year cycle, so you need material that gives and gives. My transition isn't so much about seeking the Hollywood franchise as it was going to those stories and finding Hollywood was as well."

With the plot shifting to a modern-day Russian-American rift from Clancy's usual focus on the Cold War, "Shadow Recruit" is not based on any specific book by the renowned author. Still, says Branagh, "Coming from theater, my background has always been to honor the writer. It's all about 'what does the writer intend?' There is a built-in respect for Mr.

Clancy. But as far as I understood it, his blessing for this project was at arm's length. My impression is that he felt a bit burned by Hollywood."

Clancy, who died last October, complained about the lack of creative control of the movie versions of his books. He's known for saying: "Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp." He was displeased with Harrison Ford playing Jack Ryan in the film adaptations of "Patriot Games" and "Clear and Present Danger" because he felt he was too old.

Conversely, Branagh said Clancy thought the 33-year-old Pine was "great casting" for the latest film. "He's a pretty boy, sexy man," says Branagh of Pine. "And his acting is always interesting."

A rare talent who's received Academy Award nominations for acting, directing and writing, Branagh certainly has industry pull. Kevin Costner agreed to star as Jack Ryan's CIA mentor in "Shadow Recruit" simply because Branagh asked him. Himself a director, Costner's experience was a "great help" when making the film, says Branagh. To keep the thriller nervy, Costner encouraged Branagh to limit rehearsals, "so people remained on their toes," adds Branagh.

Directed by Branagh for the first time, Costner says he "admired how he worked the floor. I don't know that either of us are really afraid of anything. I respect how he has constructed his career. You don't just go from doing Shakespeare to doing blockbusters."

But the knighted Briton, who's appeared in over 30 films and stars as the villain in "Shadow Recruit," would never brag about his career. In fact, he still gets giddy when he sees his name in lights.

"I was shrieking in the car on the way here when I saw all of the ("Shadow Recruit") movie posters," he says. "It's all still so astonishing to me." □

Director Alfonso Cuarón tries TV for first time

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—

Oscar-nominated director Alfonso Cuarón is trying television for the first time, teaming with producer J.J. Abrams on a new series.

The two have known each other for about 20 years, and Abrams was eager to work with Cuarón. Cuarón is up for a best director Oscar for "Gravity," the category he won at the Golden Globes.

Cuarón concocted the idea for "Believe," debuting March 10 on NBC, while shooting

"Gravity" with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. He contacted Abrams, who came aboard as co-executive producer for the series starring Delroy Lindo, Kyle MacLachlan and Jamie Chung.

Cuarón joked Sunday to the Television Critics Association that after working in space, he wanted to do something where people weren't floating. The series revolves around a 10-year-old girl with supernatural powers who's pursued by sinister forces. □



Alfonso Cuarón poses with the award for best director for "Gravity" in the press room at the 19th annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards at the Barker Hangar on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

Brave Girls Help Crack A Taboo



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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NAIROBI, Kenya - For a window into rape culture, consider an 11-year-old girl named Flevian, who says that her grandfather has been raping her almost daily since she was in the first grade. She's brilliant, and, even as she lived with constant abuse and fear, she alternated between first and second in her class of more than 100. Flevian says she could have done better if she hadn't been terrified of her grandfather's threats to cut her throat if she told anyone about the rapes.

Yet her family and community didn't seem to take the issue seriously, and the Kenyan police haven't taken sexual violence seriously.

Once, when Flevian was about 8 years old, the grandfather was caught abusing her. After much discussion, the extended family decided to "purify" Flevian with traditional herbs - and left it at that.

Flevian's fate is common. The World Health Organization estimates that 35 percent of women worldwide have been sexually assaulted or subjected to domestic violence. In the Kibera slum here in Nairobi where Flevian lives, many residents say that for a majority of women, their first sexual experience is rape. Rapes happen partly because women and girls are devalued and blamed. In India, a poll found that 68 percent of judges believed that "provocative attire" amounts to "an invitation to rape."

Yet there is hope. Rape thrives when it is a taboo - considered too indelicate to discuss. Now more and more women and men are speaking out, from India to Kenya to America. Here in Nairobi, there were public protests late last year after a group of young men who brutally gang-raped a 16-year-old girl were "punished" by being made to cut the grass at a police station.

In my last column, I wrote about a grass-roots organization in Kibera, Shining Hope for Communities, that is tackling the sexual violence epidemic. Now it is handling several rapes each week, pushing to get prosecutions in each one.

One of Shining Hope's social workers, who is helping victims and their families get justice from the police, is Editar Adhi-

ambo. She is an ebullient woman of 25 who says that she was raped at age 6 and again at 15 - and is determined to end the impunity.

It was Editar and her colleagues at Shining Hope who received a tip about Flevian and rushed to help. Words can't capture the horror of that scene. Flevian is tiny and fragile, and she was in great pain after what she says was a particularly brutal rape. A social worker carried her to the police station.

In a terrified whisper, she identified the rapist as her grandfather, and neighbors confirmed that they had known about the abuse for years.

In this case, the system worked. The police agreed to arrest the grandfather. He insisted that he had never raped her, but the court later set bail for \$4,700, an unusually high amount here. The arrest sent shock waves throughout the community because punishment for rape has been so rare.

That may be changing. In my last column I introduced Ida, a 4-year-old Kenyan girl who had been raped by a neighbor. Ida's family made repeated visits to the Kilimani police station to seek justice, but the police kept "misplacing" documents and no arrest was made.

Yet, eventually, as in Flevian's case, police arrested the young man whom Ida and a neighbor eyewitness identified as the rapist. Yes, my presence may have played a role in the police turnabout, but the more sustainable intervention is the constant prodding by local activists from Shining Hope for Communities. The young man arrested gave his age as 12, although neighbors said they thought he was a few years older. He admitted the rape.

"This has had a big impact here," Rosemary, the neighbor who caught the boy during the rape, said of the arrest. "Parents are talking to their sons, telling them to be careful."

That's a lesson for the world, including the United States. We need to erode the sense of male entitlement, build up female empowerment, end the taboos and, above all, end the impunity.

One step that the United States could take would be for Congress to pass the International Violence Against Women Act. This wouldn't require new spending but has been stalled for years by a combination of lack of interest and perplexing hard-line Republican opposition.

Passage wouldn't solve the pathologies of sexual violence, but it would elevate the issue and show support for those like Ida and Flevian who could use our backing. When sexual violence is endemic worldwide, does Congress really want to continue sitting on the fence? □



The State Of The Speeches



GAIL COLLINS

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Let's discuss State of the State speeches.

No wait! Don't go away! We can start with Chris Christie.

Last week, Christie gave his annual address, and everybody was wondering what he'd say about the traffic-jam scandal. It is possible the crowd of cameras set some kind of State of the State record.

"Mistakes were clearly made," Christie told the New Jersey Legislature. It's been more than a week, and he still hasn't managed to get himself out of the passive voice.

Then the governor quickly switched gears and announced that "the state of our state is good." He dropped the George Washington Bridge brouhaha and began calling for more spending on education and economic development, coupled with lower taxes. Most of the cameras quickly switched off.

Made sense. Unless you live in New Jersey, there's a limit to how much you need to know about the governor's call for reform of the state interest arbitration award system. But the policy part of the speech didn't even get Christie's constituents talking. Like almost every State of the State speech by every governor every year, it was exceedingly boring. This is their big moment, yet we pay more attention to the FBI warning on a DVD.

Why can't they do it better? I have been to way more of

these events than the average American, and the only one I remember at all is an irritable Mario Cuomo's address to the New York Legislature in 1993, when he referred to the applauding lawmakers as "monkeys."

Nothing that interesting has happened so far this year. In Virginia, the outgoing governor, Bob McDonnell, who's facing a possible indictment for accepting loans and gifts from a maker of dietary supplements, did tell the Legislature that he was "not perfect." But, like Christie, McDonnell swiftly veered upbeat. "He had 12 exclamation points. Up from eight last year," reported Daniel Luzer, the news editor of Governing magazine, which has a website that's the absolute Rosetta Stone of State of the State information.

The governor of Alabama devoted much time to assaulting Obamacare, along with calls for controlling taxes, economic development and better education.

In Idaho, Gov. Butch Otter asked for a new wolf control panel.

Plus he discussed lower taxes, economic development and education. Also, Otter pateted himself on the back for appointing the first woman to the Idaho Potato Commission.

The ritual will go on for weeks, and, in general, the speeches will all sink into oblivion as soon as they're delivered. The reason they're ignored - and why, to be honest, citizens don't even focus much on the State of the Union - is that they're generally about everything and, therefore, nothing.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York not only called for lower taxes, economic development and education but also affordable housing, a medical marijuana plan, women's equality, a crackdown on drunken driving, a crackdown on texting while driving, "a second round of the yogurt summit," ethics reform and a raft race upstate featuring teams from the state Legislature.

rible problem with heroin addiction.

"Generally I do what everybody does - hit 250 points that nobody remembers after you leave," Shumlin said in a phone interview.

Opiate addiction is the curse of rural America, and a particularly huge problem in the Northeast. In Vermont, it accounts for nearly 80 percent of the population in the state prisons. Still, it's not the kind of issue governors like to dwell on in what is supposed to be their most high-profile moment of the year.

"To be honest, what I really wanted was to have a conversation with Vermont," Shumlin said.

And it worked. He used his speech to call for more drug treatment, as well as quick intervention programs for newly arrested addicts. It got national attention, and the response from most residents, Shumlin says, has been resounding. This year, Vermonters may actually know what their governor talked about in the State of the State address. (On the negative side, one Republican state representative told The Times' Katharine Q. Seelye that the governor should have also talked about the pressing problem of - yes! - Obamacare.)

Why can't other chief executives pick one topic like Shumlin did? Because the State of the State speeches are really about the people who give them, not the tasks at hand. They're about a governor listing the many, many wonderful things he or she thinks are good ideas. They're campaign ads delivered from a podium.

It's really a waste. And it's not as if there aren't other opportunities to make points. Shumlin used his budget address this week to call for a big boost in financing for drug treatment - plus the need to control taxes, expand economic development and improve education.

If you clapped your hands for every initiative, he said dryly, "they'd be bleeding." □

Britain Promotes Apprenticeships to Fill Skills Gap

KIMIKO DE FREYTAS-TAMURA

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STAFFORD, England - For the last two years, Josh Younger, 19, has been learning how to fuse heavy steel pipes used in nuclear power plants, spending hours each day behind a welding helmet and surrounded by the acrid smell of scorched metal.

The job, called high-integrity welding, is one that most young people in Britain probably do not know or care much about. But it is essential to keeping the economy turning. And so are many other jobs that British youths tend to overlook.

Despite relatively high unemployment in Britain, especially among young people, there is a marked shortage of skilled manufacturing workers. To close that gap, government and industrial companies are making a major push to get teenagers into apprenticeships.

The programs are untested and face many obstacles. But as an apprentice at a unit of Alstom, a French utilities and transport construction group, Younger is the type of worker Britain sorely needs as it tries to rebuild its flagging industrial base, compete against other countries and improve its trade balance.

"I wanted to get a hands-on experience, and I was sick of doing A-levels," said Younger, referring to Britain's college entrance exams. Even with a university degree, he said, "you're not guaranteed a job, nor do you have any work experience."

His friends in college are saddled with student debt, Younger said, while he is earning an annual salary of about 23,000 pounds (\$38,000). And annual wages for an experienced welder can top 40,000 pounds - twice the national median income.

The British government is trying to catch up with countries like Germany and Switzerland, which have retained their competitive edge with the help

of well-honed apprenticeship programs with ancient roots in the guild system. But even those countries face the same problems that are hobbling Europe's labor market, as too few graduates and longtime unemployed people have

the training last year, about half of that to programs for 16- to 18-year-olds.

"We're 10 years too late in being proactive in getting apprenticeships," said Jim Mcilrath, a welding engineering manager at Alstom who is in charge of the

enough people technically competent to work in a unit that specializes in smart grids, a type of digital technology that delivers electricity efficiently.

According to a recent survey conducted by EEF, a British trade group, four out

ing the global race." But how much apprenticeships will improve Britain's employment picture more generally is an open question.

Critics, including academics who study youth unemployment, say the quality



Josh Younger, 19, learns how to fuse heavy steel pipes used in nuclear plants during his apprenticeship with Alstom in Stafford, England, Jan. 9, 2014. The apprenticeship system is seen by Britain's leaders as key to reversing the country's shortage of skilled manufacturing workers, but despite relatively high unemployment, Britain's young men and women still tend to overlook jobs in the sector.

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

the skills needed to fill the growing number of innovation-based jobs.

One-third of the employers across Europe have said that the lack of skills is causing major business problems in terms of higher costs, insufficient quality and lost time, according to a recent survey by the consulting firm McKinsey. At least 27 percent of the 2,600 companies surveyed said they had left an entry-level vacancy unfilled over the past year because there were no eligible applicants.

Statistics like that prompted Britain to act. In Britain last year, 868,700 people did apprenticeships, up 77 percent from three years ago. The government committed 1.57 billion pounds to

training center in Stafford. Only a few hundred high-integrity welders are left in Britain, Mcilrath said, and not enough younger ones are coming along to replace them.

He is worried that work on a nuclear power station set to begin in the next few years at Hinkley Point in Somerset will absorb all of Alstom's welders, resulting in a shortage of welders for other projects.

"We need skilled workers just to keep the lights on in this country," he said.

The complaint is heard across Britain's manufacturing industry, with smaller businesses down the supply chain bearing the brunt of the shortage.

Even at a big company like Alstom, there are not

of five manufacturers now have trouble recruiting. People who do apply for jobs, they said, often lack even basic technical skills. About 2.74 million new jobs in British manufacturing are expected by 2020, of which 1.86 million will require engineering skills, EEF said. Companies will need to double the current numbers both of qualified recruits and of apprenticeships to fill those positions.

"Without that manufacturing base that other countries have, we will continue to be in a deficit, and I don't know how long that will be sustainable," said Tony Dolphine, chief economist at the Institute for Public Policy Research in London.

"If we're not paying our way in the world, we're los-

ing the programs needs to improve. They also express doubt that increasing the numbers will translate into more jobs for young people.

Part of the challenge for Britain is to turn around the bad reputation apprenticeships can have, often being associated with dull, menial tasks that evoke images of Oliver Twist, the Dickens character who faced life as an apprentice to a chimney sweep.

Britain, like Germany, has a record of apprenticeships back to medieval times, when boys were hired as young as 7 and often worked in brutal conditions. But the nature of apprenticeships improved with the advent of tighter labor laws. □